

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Snoop Dogg  
plays it cool  
in any scene**

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Britain for foiling  
serious terror plots**

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**Johnson on  
verge of trade  
to Yankees**

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Pitcher Randy Johnson

Volume 63, No. 245 © SS 2004 G

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

50¢

## Brokerage firm catering to troops must pay \$12M fine

Watchdog group setting up Web page to help with refunds

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**Guard  
triples  
re-up  
bonus**

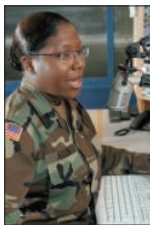
Soldiers overseas will  
get \$15,000 tax-free

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI  
Stars and Stripes

New Jersey Army National Guardmen  
deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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Scene on Sunday

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to Mannheim

Scene on Sunday

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Cherry conviction:** A state appeals court Friday refused to vacate the murder conviction of ex-Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry in the deaths of four black girls in a 1963 church bombing in Birmingham.

An attorney for Cherry, who died at a prison hospital last month at the age of 74, had asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to vacate the conviction under an Alabama law that allows such action if a defendant dies while a conviction is being appealed.

The appeals court rejected the motion, saying it had already ruled against Cherry's appeal and that the law vacating convictions with the death of a defendant does not apply.

**Human smuggling trial:** In the months after 19 illegal immigrants died in a sweltering trailer during a border crossing, authorities have brought 10 people to trial for their involvement in the smuggling ring they say caused the tragedy.

By the time the jury began deliberating the case Thursday, there were only two.

After the prosecution rested its case, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore dismissed charges against Claudia Carrizales de Villa, saying prosecutors had not proven she had profited from a restaurant that authorities said was a sham business intended to feed border crossers.

Gilmore rejected dismissal requests from the attorneys of Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar, who face 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants and could receive life in prison if convicted.

**Maryland fires arrest:** A security guard accused of burning down homes at the suburban Washington housing development where he worked told investigators he was upset his employer did not show enough sympathy after his infant son died this year.

Aaron L. Speed, 21, who worked for Security Services of America, told police he left his job from August to October because of SSA's "indifference to the death of his infant son," according to court papers.

When asked by investigators who might have started the fire, Speed said: "Someone who works at the site and recently experienced a great loss."

**Louima abuser speaks out:** Justin Volpe, the former New York City patrolman who shocked the city seven years ago by torturing a prisoner with a broken broomstick, says he feels sorry for Iraqis held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

The musings of Volpe — serving a 30-year sentence for attacking Abner Louima inside a Brooklyn police station — are featured in the upcoming issue of GQ magazine. The profile of Volpe is culled from his letters, journals and exchanges with visitors. He's barred from giving interviews.

"I feel for those prisoners at Abu Ghraib," Volpe, 32, told his father. "They're human beings." His sympathy extends to the soldiers accused of abusing prisoners as well. "The point over there is to serve, they stepped over the line ...," he said. "I feel for both sides. It's a tragedy."

## Clarification

A caption in Thursday's edition accompanying two photos of children caroling at H.D. Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany, omitted their names. The top photo showed Julia Navarro, left, and Audrey Antonio. The bottom photo showed, from left, Anthony Fleming, Anthony Hall and Julia Navarro.



**Wash. governor ballot recount:** King County election worker Ryan Aumoealogo carries a box of recounted ballots Thursday in Tukwila, Wash., where ballot boxes continue to pile up at the King County recount headquarters. Republicans announced plans Thursday morning to sue King County over 573 newly discovered ballots that could change the outcome of the closest governor's race in Washington state history.

**AIDS drug investigation:** The Rev. Jesse Jackson called for a congressional investigation into reports that U.S. health officials withheld research from the White House that showed an AIDS drug distributed to hundreds of thousands of Africans posed serious risks.

He also said the U.S. government should immediately halt the drug's distribution in Africa.

The Associated Press reported Monday that the National Institutes of Health knew about problems with the drug, nevirapine, as early as 2002, but did not tell the White House before President Bush launched a plan that summer to distribute the drug throughout Africa.

## World

**Pinochet appeal delay:** A court on Friday postponed until next week a decision on whether to uphold the indictment and house arrest of former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Pinochet was indicted Monday by Judge Juan Guzman for the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 regime. Guzman said he was certain the 89-year-old retired general was competent to stand trial.

Defense lawyer Pablo Rodriguez on Friday argued again that Pinochet was unfit for trial because of health problems including mild dementia, diabetes and arthritis.

The indictment is the third attempt to try Pinochet for human rights violations during his regime. In 2001 Pinochet was indicted in a different case but the Supreme Court dropped the charges on health grounds.

**Yushchenko poisonings:** Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned by TCDD, the most harmful known form of dioxin, the scientist who conducted tests on the presidential candidate's blood said Friday.

Abraham Brouwer, professor of environmental toxicology at the Free University in

Amsterdam, said that the dioxin was TCDD, chemically known as tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin.

TCDD is produced inadvertently during manufacturing processes that use chlorine, such as paper and pulp bleaching. It is also produced by incinerators and usually ends up mixed with other dioxins produced by the same processes.

However, the tests conducted by Brouwer at BioDetection Systems in Amsterdam found Yushchenko was poisoned with pure TCDD, not a mixture.

That rules out many sources, such as an incinerator or factory.

**Gadhafi presidential comments:** Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi says his decision to abandon nuclear weapons helped President Bush get re-elected.

In an interview airing Friday on Italy's RAI TV, Gadhafi said the U.S. presidential election was America's way of rewarding Tripoli for renouncing the nuclear program.

Gadhafi renewed the weapons program last year, a turnaround that ended Libya's international isolation. In turn, the United States lifted most of its commercial sanctions, as did the European Union. The EU also eased an arms embargo.

**War crimes conviction:** An appeals chamber at the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on Friday confirmed the conviction and 25-year sentence of a regional Bosnian Croat politician for an ethnic cleansing campaign against Muslim civilians in central Bosnia.

It upheld part of the conviction of a second defendant, but reduced his sentence to six from 15 years. Mario Cerkez, a military commander, was released two weeks ago in anticipation of the lighter sentence.

Judge Wolfgang Schomburg said the panel of five appeals judges found chief defendant Danilo Kordic had played a key role in a plan in 1993 "to kill military-aged men, ethnic civilians and destroy houses."

Stories and photo from wire services

Comics, horoscopes  
and advice every day  
in Stars and Stripes

# Guard apparently kills self in office

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — A Pond Security Service guard was found dead of an apparent gunshot wound in a small office in the Lincoln Village housing area early Wednesday.

Post authorities are not releasing any specific details of the death. However, the Darmstadt city police handling the case said it was a definite suicide.

Teri Vielt, the 233rd Base Support Battalion spokeswoman, wrote in an e-mail message Friday that the body of a 44-year-old male was found by another guard

in Annex 4493, a Pond's office, at about 6:15 a.m. She believes the shot was fired 20 to 30 minutes before the body was found.

The guard, whose name was not released, came from Eritrea, a state in eastern Africa. German authorities said they do not provide details of suicides done in private and would not release any further information.

Pond officials were not available for comment Friday afternoon.

The Pond Security Service is a civilian contractor hired to guard gates of U.S. Army installations throughout Germany.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

# Military cracks down on U.K. gas coupons

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

The United States is cracking down on gas coupon sales in Britain.

As of this month, only sponsors — military members and employees, as opposed to family members — can buy the discount coupons. And they can only be used to buy 50 liters' worth of fuel per week to be used for "duty driving," such as and from work. Holiday trips are definitely out.

Apparently, the change is more one of enforcing old rules than it is a whole new idea.

Capt. Heather Healy, spokeswoman for the 3rd Air Force, called it "a reinforcement of a policy that was already in place." She said teenagers and others had been buying the gas coupons, which allow Americans to buy tax-free gas at stations off post.

"The change was that only entitled people can buy them," Healy said.

It's a bit complicated: The coupons are sold by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service at air bases, but the program is administered by the Navy. And the

authority asking for the crackdown is actually the British government.

"Her Majesty's Customs and Excise Service wants users to understand that tax-free gasoline in the U.K. is a privilege, not a right," said an AAFES news release.

Debbie Byerly, an AAFES spokeswoman, said many of the details of the arrangement with the United Kingdom were news to officials involved with the coupons.

"We didn't know a lot of that stuff," she said.

An Air Force legal officer said coupon policing is necessary to keep the coupons available at all.

"In order to preserve the availability of these coupons through AAFES for official use, entitled personnel must ensure that coupons are purchased and used strictly for authorized duty driving purposes," said Maj. Robert Cottrell of the 3rd Air Force's legal office, in a prepared statement.

"... Failure to control and oversee the use of such privileges can result in additional HMCE oversight and possibly loss of such privileges."

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: [sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

# Breaking new ground in Afghanistan



UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS/AP

Comedian Robin Williams, second from left, takes part Thursday in a ground-breaking ceremony for a USO center named in honor of Pat Tillman at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Next to Williams, from left, are NFL Hall of Famer John Elway, model Lesann Tweeden, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers, and USO President/CEO Ned Powell. The center will honor Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals star who left the NFL to join the Army Rangers and was killed in action in Afghanistan earlier this year.

# NFL stars visit wounded troops at Landstuhl



Sgt. Charles Sheely of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines accepts an autographed football from NFL Hall of Famer and former Oakland Raider Mike Haynes while telling him about fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. Several former members of the NFL visited with patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday.

TODD GOODMAN/U.S. Army

# NSGA Naples decommissioned in closed-door ceremony

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Naval Security Group Activity Naples, Italy, held its decommissioning ceremony Friday in the same manner it operated for the past 25 years — behind closed doors.

The Navy cryptology command, which provided, among other things, "special intelligence," according to a brief, "unclassified" history of the Naples unit, has ceased operations and will close officially March 31, 2005.

Most of the 100 or so personnel still

working in the windowless Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence building at the Capodichino base will transfer back to the United States as the Navy shifts some of its security functions from overseas bases.

"There's certainly a worldwide shift of naval security group activities from larger numbers of smaller detachments to a smaller number of larger detachments, balanced between the U.S. and abroad," said John Schindler, Naval Security Group command historian and public affairs officer.

Schindler wouldn't specify plans for the closure of any other of their European facilities, although NSGA Rota, Spain, is expected to close down in 2005. An NSG detachment in London closed on Sept. 30, according to Navy records.

With the Naples closure, and Rota's pending shutdown, the only large-scale NSGA will be in Bahrain.

Schindler said that all these changes are being done in line with other major changes to naval forces in Europe.

he said.

"Our shifts of personnel and facilities are to better serve the fleet, and national security as well. It's about more effective use of scarce manpower."

Smaller NSG detachments will remain in Europe and the Middle East, however, including one in Griesheim, Germany, that recently moved from Bad Aibling, three in England; and another on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: [chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

# MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

## Stateside housing allowances to rise

Monthly housing allowances for 910,000 servicemembers living off base in the United States will climb by an average of 8 percent effective Jan. 1, say Defense Department officials.

The rise in individual rates, however, will vary significantly, from no change for some grades in some areas to as much as 20 percent to 30 percent for military renters in high-cost areas such as Hawaii.

Revised BAH rates have no direct impact on servicemembers living off base overseas. They get an Overseas Housing Allowance which is adjusted in the spring and fall each year to reflect changes in out-of-pocket costs for stateside peers and changes in the dollar's value relative to local currency.

The 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing rates not only will keep

**For 2005 BAH rates at more stateside locations, see the online version of this column at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)**

pace with an average 4.4 percent rise in rental costs nationwide over last year but also are high enough to close a remaining 3.5 percent gap between 2004 BAH and median rental expenses nationwide.

BAH recipients will enjoy a fifth and final "above-inflation" annual adjustment that since the year 2000 has eliminated a 22 percent disparity between stateside allowances and rental costs reported in housing surveys.

With the new rates, said Tim Fowlkes, director of BAH for the Defense Department, out-of-pocket costs for stateside renters will fall to zero, assuming they rent at the local median cost for the type of housing deemed appropriate to their pay grade.

"If they choose to rent above the median rent, then they would have some out-of-pocket costs," Fowlkes said. "Likewise, if they choose to rent below the median, they would actually have some extra cash to pocket."

The chart shows 2005 rates for U.S. locations with large populations of servicemembers. Rates for all areas can be found online at: <https://secureapp2.bah.mil> pentagon.mil/perdenn/bah.html

BAH rates are set so that servicemembers of equal rank and with the same dependency status have equal purchasing power to rent housing, regardless of where they are assigned. The tax-free allowance is to cover not only median rental costs locally but average

utility expenses — electricity, heat and water — and renter's insurance.

Total BAH payments in 2005 will reach \$12.3 billion, up \$2.5 billion, or 25 percent, from 2004. An additional 90,000 members will qualify. Some of that growth, Fowlkes said, results from mobilized Reserve and National Guard members who are eligible to draw BAH while activated. Their BAH typically is based on where their families reside while they are deployed.

Also, he said, thousands more active-duty families are eligible for BAH this year due to housing privatization, a program to move families out of aging military units into new or renovated private

sector housing with developers agreeing to set rent equal to members' monthly BAH.

Stateside, BAH is paid both to military homeowners and renters but the allowance is based on rental costs alone, avoiding the complex financial experience of homebuyers who can claim tax breaks on mortgage payments and often realize capital gains on the sale of their homes.

Most BAH recipients are married and thus receive BAH at the higher "with dependents" rate. A sampling of nationwide averages shows with-dependents BAH rising in 2005 by \$47 a month for grades E-1 through E-4, \$60 a month for E-5, \$63 for E-6 and \$83 for E-7.

For a complete list of BAH rates and more on the topic, go to [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com). To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 211111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail [milupdate@aol.com](mailto:milupdate@aol.com) or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)

### A sample of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates as of Jan. 1, 2005

BASES	EGLIN AFB, FL		FORT BRAGG/POPE AFB, NC		HAMPTON/NEWPORT NEWS, VA		FORT RILEY, KS		FT HOOD, TX		PENSACOLA, FL		HONOLULU, HI	
	dependents	without	dependents	without	dependents	without	dependents	without	dependents	without	dependents	without	dependents	without
E-1	\$770	\$670	\$809	\$654	\$910	\$759	\$779	\$535	\$775	\$640	\$784	\$609	\$1698	\$1161
E-2	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161
E-3	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161
E-4	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161
E-5	820	704	846	733	960	828	844	656	840	754	836	692	1773	1472
E-6	1071	727	957	777	1005	868	941	724	941	821	937	739	1922	1633
E-7	1115	773	985	812	1091	914	959	784	988	896	974	788	2069	1703
E-8	1164	869	1017	869	1186	969	978	863	1030	944	1015	854	2274	1802
E-9	1239	947	1094	902	1285	983	1020	893	1090	1030	1064	887	2496	1849
W-1	1072	751	957	795	1006	892	941	755	942	860	938	764	1925	1670
W-2	1135	868	998	867	1130	969	967	863	1009	994	991	855	2165	1802
W-3	1194	955	1036	906	1245	984	991	896	1071	1034	1040	890	2388	1853
W-4	1256	1082	1116	964	1300	1027	1031	945	1098	1102	1073	946	2538	1964
W-5	1327	1126	1209	992	1365	1112	1078	963	1128	1157	1112	983	2711	2130
O-1E	1125	820	992	846	1110	960	963	844	998	971	982	836	2126	1773
O-2E	1165	869	1030	895	1228	989	987	893	1062	1022	1033	880	2355	1838
O-3E	1267	1071	1131	967	1310	1005	1039	941	1108	1088	1079	937	2565	1922
O-1	849	720	859	772	965	861	855	715	851	810	847	732	1790	1623
O-2	1065	803	954	833	1040	943	939	822	939	943	935	818	1919	1747
O-3	1192	981	1035	917	1241	989	990	906	1069	1046	1038	901	2380	1868
O-4	1357	1120	1248	988	1392	1100	1098	961	1141	1149	1128	978	2784	2107
O-5	1473	1149	1399	1007	1496	1157	1174	973	1191	1186	1209	1002	3066	2218
O-6	1485	1194	1411	1036	1508	1245	1184	991	1201	1242	1219	1040	3091	2388
O-7	1506	1218	1427	1057	1526	1270	1197	1011	1215	1267	1233	1061	3127	2436

Source: Department of Defense

Stars and Stripes

## U.S. forces close latest chapter in French military cooperation

BY JAMEY KEATEN  
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Yanks are leaving — and many French didn't even realize they were here.

The last U.S. military contingent in France said adieu to the country on Friday with a fittingly low-key ceremony. With European forces taking over peacekeeping in Bosnia, the Americans are being redeployed elsewhere, thus ending a chapter of unsung cooperation between Paris and Washington.

Little known even to some experts, the

774th Expeditionary Air Base Group is the decade-old unit wrapped up its deployment last mission at a huge air base in the balmy Mediterranean town of Istres.

The pulpit had nothing to do with trans-Atlantic squabbling that erupted over the U.S.-led war in Iraq, but with the end of a NATO peacekeeping role in Bosnia earlier this month, officials said.

"There's nothing symbolic about it," said military expert Etienne de Durand of the French Institute of International Relations in Paris. "This is mainly a technical maneuver."

French-American relations frayed in the run-up to the Iraq war, when President Jacques Chirac led international opposition to the U.S.-led campaign to oust Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein.

Col. Joe Abbott, who oversees U.S. Air Force operations in Istres, drew Aviano Air Base in Italy, said bonds between the French and American air forces transcend any political discord.

"Political disagreements come and go, but our alliance is stronger than that," he said. "Our relationship with the French air force is something that's been very stable and dependable."

The force, made up mainly of reservists and Air National Guard airmen, will return home and could face redeployment in a less cushy location — possibly Iraq, Abbott said. They are the last large-scale American military force remaining in France, he said.

To many, the mere presence of U.S. forces on French soil these days may have appeared strange. But since 1994, Istres has served as a launch pad for U.S. KC-135 air-borne refueling planes supporting NATO jets enforcing a no-fly zone and some U2 spy planes over the Balkans.

That mission, however, is quietly in the background of the sharp decline in French-American ties.



# Brokerage firm agrees to \$12 million fine

First Command accused of lying about investment fees, returns; most customers are troops

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A brokerage firm that caters almost exclusively to military personnel agreed this week to pay a \$12 million fine to settle claims it misled customers about their investment fees and returns.

First Command Financial Planning will refund about \$4 million to certain customers who bought mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and this year, in a settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization.

The remainder of the fine will go into a military education fund run by NASD, according to the association's head of enforcement, Barry Goldsmith.

The firm's customer base includes over 297,000 current and former military families. According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of the current active-duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

The company employs about 1,000 sales agents — mostly retired military officers

## Seeking restitution

Service members and families who feel they may be entitled to a refund as part of this settlement are urged to go to [www.nasd.com](http://www.nasd.com) beginning Saturday morning.

"There will be a First Command investor restitution page on the Web site," according to National Association of Securities Dealers spokeswoman Sarah Bohn. "It will clearly state who is eligible, what you should do, when restitution will be available, and what options will be made available to investors who are not eligible."

Wayne M. Secore, a lawyer with Secore and Waller, LLP, a Dallas-based law firm, will administer the restitution program.

Anyone who is having problems with the Web site can call him at (972) 776-0200. The NASD Foundation will also be developing plans to educate investors, as part of the settlement, but plans have not been finalized for how that will work, Bohn said.

— Patrick J. Dickson

— in some 200 branch offices near military bases in the United States and several foreign countries, including Germany, England, Spain and Italy.

United States and several foreign countries. A statement from the company noted that the settlement did not involve any of the firm's life insurance policies or banking services, and only involved how investment plans were sold, not concerns over the mutual funds themselves. The company neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

Before the settlement, First Command had announced it would stop offering its

systematic investment plans, the focus of the investigation. In addition to the fine, the firm will also have all of its advertising preapproved by an independent consultant for two years.

Goldsmith said sales agents for the broker dealer misled customers in saying their high up-front costs of the funds — in some cases 50 percent of the money being invested — encouraged clients to stay in the plan because they would face large losses at first, which would diminish over time. Company data showed otherwise.

Agents also said the systematic investments had lower long-term costs than

other mutual funds. Goldsmith said in many cases the opposite is true, and clients didn't fully understand the fees associated with First Command's plans.

"We found it very troublesome that the people who were sold these plans had a lot on their minds and were not given all the appropriate information," he said. "And the median age of their investors was 25, which meant [First Command agents] were dealing with people without much investing background."

The investigation also resulted in a \$25,000 fine and a 30-day suspension for First Command district supervisor James Provo, based in Charleston, S.C., who responded to an Air Force officer's e-mail complaint about the company by telling the officer that he could lose a permanent change of station assignment and informing his squadron commander that the company might file a grievance against the officer.

Payments will be available only to First Command clients who purchased and ended their investment plans within the last six years. Goldsmith said customers with active plans can try to recoup their losses through arbitration, and in light of the settlement he expects many clients to do so.

For more information: [www.nasdfoundation.org/](http://www.nasdfoundation.org/)  
E-mail Leo Shane at: [shanel@stripes.com](mailto:shanel@stripes.com)

# Army Guard triples bonuses for re-enlisting

Overseas troops will receive tax-free bonuses; new recruits to get an increase

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army National Guard has tripled re-enlistment bonuses and increased new enlistment bonuses by 67 percent in an effort to boost its ranks, Pentagon officials announced this week.

At a press conference on Thursday Lt. Gen. Steven Blum said the Army Guard has fallen short of recruiting over the past

two months, largely due to troubles in Iraq. Officials hope the bonus increases will entice more new recruits, and retain more of the Guard's 360,000 current members.

The Guard has had a particularly difficult time recruiting active-duty soldiers into its ranks. Stripes reported in November that just more than half of the 7,000 active-duty soldiers that the Guard sought to transition into its ranks did so in fiscal 2004.

As of Dec. 14 bonuses jumped from \$5,000 to \$15,000, for current servicemembers who re-enlist for six years. For those who are currently serving abroad, that money will be tax-free.

For new recruits, the signing bonus will grow from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

Mark Allen, spokesman for the Guard, said the new figures bring the bonuses more in line with those offered by the Army, which is especially important for Guard members serving abroad.

"What do you say to a guy who is serving in Iraq and is seeing an active-duty guy earning more in bonuses than he is?" Allen asked. "We haven't changed these for many years. This will give more equity to our people there."

Bonuses for active-duty Army recruits and re-enlistees depend on individual's rank, specialties and length of service. Allen said the Guard's bonus structure will apply to everyone who joins.

National Guard officials have said they expect the total number of reservists and guardsmen on active duty in the war on terrorism to remain above 100,000 for the next two years.

Department of Defense officials estimate Army Reserve soldiers make up about 40 percent of the 148,000 troops in Iraq.



AP photos

Stefanie Pabon, left, and her twin sister, Darlene, of Manchester, N.J., both with the 119th Combat Support Battalion of the N.J. Army National Guard, depart Tuesday for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from Fort Dix, N.J.

The issue was raised Thursday by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the head of the National Guard, who said that the Guard needs \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment over the next three years to continue to meet all its overseas and homeland commitments.

Blum warned that the reserve force "will be broken and not ready the next time it's needed, either at home or for war."

His remarks came as the Bush administration is preparing to submit an emergency spending plan totaling more than \$80 billion to cover war costs and remedy equipment shortages throughout the military.

Guard officials have asked that \$7 billion of that money be committed for the Guard's troops, and they intend to seek an additional \$13 billion in later budget requests.

"This has got to be addressed now," he said of the Guard's weakened condition. "The need for this money can't fall through the cracks and be an afterthought."

The \$20 billion request represents a huge increase over the \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year in new equipment that the Guard has received in recent years. Blum said the funds would go toward a wide range of purchases, including aircraft, vehicles, radios and weapons.

The Washington Post contributed to this report.  
E-mail Leo Shane at: [shanel@stripes.com](mailto:shanel@stripes.com)



Jacqueline Conforne counts change to stock up on vending machine goods before departing for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# 81st BCT's raids keep fellow soldiers safe

## Guard unit snuffs out insurgent activity in Iraq

BY RON JENSEN  
Stars and Stripes

AL SHAHABI, Iraq — Using the pre-dawn darkness as cover, about 50 soldiers from the 81st Brigade Combat Team on Friday took into custody five men believed to be behind the mortar attacks and roadside bombs that make life dangerous in and around nearby Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, part of the 81st BCT's Task Force Tacoma, grabbed three of the men in two separate raids. No shots were fired and no one was hurt in the raid.

"It was routine," said Sgt. Biff Yelensky, while the men were being identified and their homes searched. "We got the two targets we were looking for."

At another house 100 yards away, other soldiers from the company grabbed a third man, the final person in the company's game plan.

At the same time, another platoon from Task Force Tacoma was about 1,000 yards away taking two more men into custody. They are also believed to be behind the deadly activities in the area.

"We had enough information, we're going to put these guys away for a while," said 1st Sgt. John Larson.

They were described by 1st Lt. Rodolfo Hall, company executive officer, as "HVTs" — high-value targets.

The men, now being held at Anaconda, are believed to be involved in hijacking and kidnapping for ransom. The money they gain is then used to fund efforts to kill Americans at the base, the largest support base in Iraq. They've also been involved in murder, the Americans believe.

The 81st BCT is a National Guard unit from Washington state, augmented by a battalion from California and a company from Minnesota. Its main mission is force protection. Company B is from California.

The troops rolled out in the freezing darkness of early morning Friday, reaching the target — which was only a few miles away — before 6 a.m. The convoy of nearly a dozen vehicles included two M1 Abrams tanks and a field ambulance.

They perform these types of raids frequently, whenever intelligence has the goods. But the risk of each mission still creates a nervousness.

"Especially here. These guys are hijackers and murderers," said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Puentes, who teaches high school English in Los Angeles.

He said the winner of any fight is not in doubt, but the worry about the first shot is always there.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, a California National Guard unit, search a house in Al Shahabi, Iraq, early Friday after taking a man who lives there into custody on suspicion of planting roadside bombs.

## Maintaining perimeter control no easy task

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO  
Stars and Stripes

MUHAMMAD BAQIL, Iraq — Often in the unconventional combat facing American troops in Iraq, the "cordon" part of a "cordon and search" mission is the most difficult.

While one section of troops raids a target, others block off the surrounding area, providing security and trying to deal with the inevitable crowds of onlookers, curious children and agitated locals caught up in the traffic.

That was the case Thursday, when troops from the Louisiana-based 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment raided a farm compound northwest of Baghdad. Corps-level intelligence reports said the compound was being used to manufacture and store roadside bombs and that it was being used as shelter by as many as 50 insurgents.

As infantrymen working from Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees searched the compound, other troops dealt with an increasingly large crowd on the streets outside. The "Voodoo" soldiers of the National Guard battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company tried to manage the traffic, reaching for a balance between providing security, searching vehicles and allowing innocent locals to go about their everyday business.

"This is getting messed up," hollered Sgt. Joseph Shanks, a 25-year-old from Baker, La., who normally works at the Georgia Pacific paper company. "They're letting more vehicles in, but they aren't letting any out."

In a briefing before the raid, soldiers at the checkpoints surrounding the target compound were told to check for identification, search vehicles and allow local traffic to pass through. But once the Iraqi vehicles entered the search area, most couldn't find a way out.

So, as the soldiers dismounted and tried to run the checkpoints, more and more vehicles piled up. Small groups of Iraqi men began gathering, conspicuously absent were the



Sgt. Bradford Domingue, a medic, and Sgt. Bryan Fisher, right, check medical documents presented by Iraqi men at a checkpoint outside of a search area near Baghdad.

JOSEPH GIORDANO  
Stars and Stripes

crowds of children that usually converge on groups of U.S. soldiers. While the kids can sometimes be a nuisance, soldiers say they're more nervous when the kids don't show up. It could be a sign, soldiers say, that some sort of attack is imminent.

Sgt. Bryan Fisher, a 31-year-old construction worker from Chalmette, La., and Staff Sgt. Robert Burns, a 36-year-old sheriff's deputy from New Iberia, La., chased down a suspicious white truck that kept turning around and trying to find a road out of the area. After a few tense moments, the soldiers determined that the truck was what its two occupants said it was — a delivery truck full of eggs headed for Baghdad. But because neither man had identification, their photographs were taken and information on who they said they were was recorded.

Inside the compound, soldiers were coming up empty in their search for bomb-making material or men with the surnames Hussein and Wissam, whom intelligence officers had ordered arrested on sight.

Back outside, Sgt. Bradford Domingue, a 26-year-old former emergency medical technician from Carencro, La., was helping on the checkpoints. With a military-issue booklet of Iraqi phrases, Domingue was dealing with three men in a car who said they needed to leave because of a medical condition.

Domingue looked at the medicines they handed over, asked rudimentary questions about their problem and even checked an Iraqi version of a heart-monitor readout.

"Even the heart strip is confusing," he said, as he used a mix of the phrase book and sign language to communicate with the vehicle occupants. Eventually, after a search of the vehicle, the men were allowed to pass.

For the guardsmen of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, the learning curve has been steep. In less than two months in Iraq, they've come to a better understanding of the local culture, they said. But some things are still baffling.

SEE CORDON ON PAGE 7

# Increased airlifts in Iraq don't overtax USAFE

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Increased military cargo flights in Iraq have had little effect on airlift squadrons based at Europe's cargo-hauling hub, air men and U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said this week.

The Air Force's top general said Tuesday that C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster cargo lifters have picked up their pace over the past month to decrease the time ground troops spend on dangerous supply routes. But USAFE officials said they have not been asked to provide more aircraft.

Crewmembers of Ramstein C-130 crews just back from Iraq likewise said their missions in Iraq did not



Lovelace

change noticeably in recent weeks.

Lt. Col. Bill Arthur, director of operations at USAFE's Air Mobility Operations Control Center, which oversees

Ramstein aircraft being sent to Iraq, said USAFE had "not received any requirements" for the base's 18 C-130 Hercules since the stepped-up airlift began last month.

On Tuesday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper told reporters in Washington that transport planes in Iraq were carrying 25 percent more than they had when he last visited in early November.

Cargo lifters have carried an average of 450 tons of supplies per day over the past month, up from an average of about 350 tons per day, according to media reports.



Contardo



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Thomas Ward from the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is met Thursday by his wife Kerri, Samantha, 2, and daughter, 8, when he returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from a rotation in Iraq.

But Capt. Mike Contardo, a Hercules co-pilot with the Ramstein-based 37th Airlift Squadron — who returned from Kuwait on Thursday after 60 days in the region — said his missions were "pretty steady-state."

Contardo and his crew primarily moved personnel in and out of Baghdad and Balad, Iraq, but they also moved some cargo. Aircrews flying missions into Iraq are already so busy that more planes or different types of cargo would likely just get assimilated into the mix, Contardo said. "There's

enough Hercules out there that it wouldn't change much," he said.

With the return of Contardo's aircraft this week, all of Ramstein's C-130s are back in Germany. Air Force cargo missions may continue to expand in Iraq, with the tonnage of daily shipments continuing to rise, according to media reports.

Arthur said he couldn't speculate on what resources USAFE might be required to provide in that case.

"It's really tough to say what those requirements [might be],"

he said, but added that USAFE is "postured to respond," to any increased mission demands.

That an increase in cargo missions might mean more flights over dangerous territory didn't seem to faze the pilots. The air men said they'll deliver their cargo when and where the mission requires. "If they put it in the back, we'll take it anywhere," said Capt. Marc Lovelace, another co-pilot with the 37th Airlift Squadron.

E-mail Ben Murray at: [murrayb@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:murrayb@mail.strips.osd.mil)

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## Raids: Proactive troop protection

RAIDS, FROM PAGE 6

"You don't know what to expect when you go in there," said Larson, 37, who is on permanent duty with the Guard in California.

The soldiers didn't kick the door in and barge through. They knocked. When the door was opened, they quickly moved inside and began an accounting of every person there. One man ran, but was found in a nearby house.

At one house in Al Shahabi, the target lived with his wife and four young children. The soldiers made sure the children were warm while they began a search of the house after taking the father into custody.

The children, all quite young, looked on in wide-eyed wonderment, seeming puzzled at the activity of the nighttime visitors.

"I have three children myself," said Yelensky, who is a full-time military member. "I'm a little sympathetic to the children."

After the targets were grabbed and secured, soldiers began searching the houses, room by room. They looked for contraband, which could be anything from illegal weapons to large sums of cash. Sol-

diers took a handful of audio tapes from one house in case something important is on them.

They also took away shell casings, which, Larson said, can be used to make fake roadside bombs. While dealing with a fake bomb, he said, they can be caught by a real one.

After the soldiers' presence was known, two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters from 1st Squad, 17 Cavalry Regiment were called in to provide cover from the air and search for any approaching threats. The unit from Fort Bragg, N.C., recently arrived in the theater.

Staff Sgt. James Heaney, who manages a Home Depot in Port Orchard, Wash., was in the platoon nearby that grabbed two men. He said the intelligence that led to this raid came from someone grabbed in an earlier mission. "We should be working our way up to the big guy," he said.

The soldiers were happy but not jubilant after their early morning success. They were back at the base in time for breakfast. And they may have put a dent in the effort to harm Americans.

"For the soldiers," said Heaney, "this is a big morale boost."

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## Cordon: Hard to keep order at scene

CORDON, FROM PAGE 6

"They don't have a house, but they have a satellite dish. I don't understand it," Fisher said, as they drove past a family standing next to a satellite dish sitting by the shell of a crumbled house.

The raid, which kicked off around 2 p.m., finished a few hours later with no arrests or weapons found. But for the soldiers element, the day was far

from over. After the other units headed back to base, "Voodoo" troops continued on to Sabha al-Bur, a town U.S. military officials say is being targeted by insurgents for harassment and as a possible safe haven. The town is just east of Fallujah, and some U.S. intelligence officials say some of the insurgents that escaped the assault there earlier this month have moved to Sabha al-Bur.

Units from the 25th BCT have been focusing on the city, trying to keep it from falling under insurgent influence. So, as darkness fell Thursday night, a few dozen troops went on a walking patrol of the unit streets.

Just before midnight, they pulled back onto their base at Camp Victory, took off their gear and prepared for another day.

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# Pentagon seeks OK for anthrax vaccine

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is seeking emergency authority to resume administering the anthrax vaccine, saying troops in South Korea and the Middle East are at risk.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz made the request in a Dec. 10 letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. The No. 2 official at the Pentagon cited "a significant potential for a military emergency involving a heightened risk to United States military forces of attack with anthrax."

Wolfowitz did not describe any specific threat, but pointed to a classified intelligence assessment from last month regarding anthrax. He did not detail the assessment.

## DOD cites law that allows HHS to act in emergencies

HHS is considering the request, a department spokesman said.

Anthrax vaccinations by the military have been suspended since late October, when a federal judge ordered the military to stop requiring personnel to take the vaccine. The judge, responding to a lawsuit by six members of the armed forces, found fault in the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving the drug.

The military's request for emergency authority comes under the Project BioShield Act of 2004, which says that HHS, in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency, can allow the use of drugs that had not finished the FDA process, officials said.

"We are concerned for the health and safety of our service members, particularly in worldwide operations involving the war on terrorism," said William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, in a statement provided by the Pentagon. "Intelligence indicates an ongoing threat of anthrax against our military forces."

An HHS official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the BioShield law was envisioned to be used after an attack has occurred to protect the American public from an outbreak, not to pre-emptively protect a part of the U.S. government.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan first ordered a halt to the mandatory vacci-

nations a year ago, saying that vaccine was being used for an unapproved purpose. Soon after, the FDA issued an order intended to give the vaccine final approval for use to prevent inhaled anthrax.

Sullivan later lifted the ban, except for the six plaintiffs, who asked Sullivan to reinstate the prohibition. He agreed, finding fault in the government's process for approving the vaccine.

With the HHS official's final approval overruled, the anthrax vaccine is considered investigational. Congress has prohibited the military from giving investigational drugs to soldiers without their consent unless there is a presidential waiver.

Since 1998, 1.2 million troops have been vaccinated against anthrax. Before they were stopped, hundreds of service members had been punished or discharged for refusing them, according to the Pentagon.

# Official: Saddam's defense minister to face hearing

## Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad to appear in court alongside another notorious general, Chemical Ali

BY PAUL GARWOOD  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein's defense minister, who surrendered to American forces last year, will appear alongside another notorious general — known as Chemical Ali — when investigative trials open next week, an official said Friday.

Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, who gave himself up in September 2003 at a coalition military base in the northern city of Mosul, will be among the first two to face the hearings, which interim Iraqi Prime Minister Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced will commence next week.

An Iraqi government official said Thursday that Saddam's notorious former right-hand man, Ali Hassan al-Majid — known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of chemical weapons — would head the list of 11 top regime members to appear at the initial investigative court hearings.

"Chemical Ali and Sultan will be the first to face the hearings," the official, who is familiar with the proceedings, told The Associated Press.

Allawi's government has made a new push to start the trials ahead of Jan. 30 elections, in which campaigning has started amid continued insurgent violence.

On Friday, gunmen attacked a car in the northern city of Mosul, killing three people who appeared to be foreigners and their driver. The bodies of the four victims, including one whose head was almost severed, were seen lying on the road alongside their burning car.

At least one body was set alight. Eyewitnesses said one of the slain men appeared to be in his 20s and another in his 40s and that they were killed in jeans.

Police Capt. Zeid Wassem said police received reports that three of the dead were foreigners but their nationalities were not immediately known.

A day earlier, a person was killed in Mosul when seven mortar rounds struck near local gov-



A car burns in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul on Friday. According to eyewitnesses, gunmen stopped the car and killed four occupants, three of which are believed to be foreigners.

ernment offices, police Capt. Mohammed Abbas said.

Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, was initially peaceful after the U.S.-led invasion but it has become a worrisome trouble spot since U.S. and Iraqi troops invaded the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, in November.

U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said security forces in western Mosul found the bodies of six unidentified Iraqi civilians who had been shot to death. Two more bodies were found in a town 20 miles to the east. Since Nov. 10, about 160 bodies, including many affiliated with the Iraqi National Guard and police, have been found in the Mosul area.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy confirmed the name of an American kidnapped six weeks ago in a deadly attack in the Iraqi capital, and his family pleaded for his release.

Ray Hallums, a worker for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army, was seized Nov. 1 along with two other foreigners after a gunbattle in the upscale Mansour neighborhood. An Iraqi guard and one attacker were killed.

Hallums' wife, Susan, of Corona, Calif., said in a telephone interview Friday that she has not

heard from the kidnappers. She is separated from her husband, the father of two daughters.

"I want to plead for his life and send out prayers and hope that he will be released," Susan Hallums said. "There has been no proof of life since he was taken."

The embassy confirmed Hallums' name and abduction but would give no other details.

There were no injuries. South of Baghdad, a fire on oil pipeline near the capital's Dora refinery sent thick black billowing smoke pouring into the sky Friday. Insurgents regularly attack the country's oil infrastructure.

Insurgents also fired rocket-propelled grenades at a compound in Baghdad's Green Zone used by Australian troops stationed in the Iraqi capital, a defense spokeswoman said Friday.

The former defense minister, Ahmad, was No. 27 on America's list of 55 most-wanted regime figures. He surrendered on Sept. 19, 2003, to Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who was then the commander of the 101st Airborne Division.

Ahmad is in U.S. military custody at an undisclosed location in Baghdad.

During the 1991 Gulf War, Ahmad, then a lieutenant general, served as deputy chief of staff and head the Iraqi delegation at cease-fire talks.

Ahmad was responsible for persuading Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf to allow Iraq to use military helicopters on official business. The allies came to regret that decision later when the Iraqis used helicopters to quell rebellious Shiites in Basra and Kurds in the north.

The Kurdish military instrumental in bringing Ahmad said at the time of the surrender that the

deal was sealed after the Americans agreed to remove his name from the 55 most-wanted list, a move that would have seen him released without trial after his initial questioning ended.

It was not immediately clear if the alleged arrangements remained in place.

Saddam, 67, will not be among the group to appear in next week's court hearings, which will be open to some media representatives, officials have said.

The former Iraqi president met with a defense attorney Thursday for the first time since his capture a year ago. The unidentified attorney spent four hours with the former dictator at Saddam's undisclosed detention site.

The Iraqi interim government's push to get the trials for Saddam's former lieutenants under way before the Jan. 30 national elections has led to dissent even within the Iraqi Cabinet.

Justice Minister Maliki Dohan al-Hassan told the Geneva daily newspaper *L'Express* in an interview published Thursday that the trials should be held only "after the establishment of an Iraqi government with ballot-box legitimacy."

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at least 1,304 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,019 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia,

three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that the combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,166 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 910 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One Marine was killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.



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## IN THE WORLD

## Afghan troops storm prison to end standoff

BY AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan troops stormed a notorious prison Friday in an assault that commanders said ended a standoff sparked by a bloody escape attempt by four inmates, once suspected of belonging to the al-Qaida terrorist organization. Explosions ripped through the area around the Pul-e Charkhi jail as troops — firing rocket-propelled grenades and small arms — launched the assault just before nightfall. Soon after, soldiers reported the last holdouts in the prison were killed, bringing the day's death toll to four inmates and four guards.

The standoff began in the morning when four inmates — three Pakistanis and an Iraqi — overpowered and killed a guard, then used his weapon to kill three other guards. Two of the inmates were killed in that battle.

The other two remained holed up for 10 hours before the assault, taking pot shots at the hundreds of security personnel ringing the prison, keeping them

from reaching three wounded soldiers trapped inside the sprawling complex.

One soldier involved in the fighting emerged and told reporters that the rebellion had been put down and that all those involved in the jailbreak had been killed.

Another soldier, who called himself Zabullah, later came out and told reporters: "We killed them," but gunfire soon erupted again.

After one last burst of gunfire, troops visibly relaxed and went through the pitch-black area with flashlights. "We searched all the rooms, and it's now under control, so we're leaving," said Amin Jan, an army commander.

The guard who was killed at the start of the break-out attempt was leading the prisoners to morning prayers about 7 a.m. when he was attacked with razors, then beaten and stabbed to death, said warden Abdul Salam Bakhschi. The guard's AK-47 rifle was then used in the subsequent battle.

Pul-e Charkhi prison is where three Americans are serving sentences of eight to 10 years there for torturing Afghans on a freelance hunt for terrorists.



Afghan security police officers stand guard in front of the Pul-e Charkhi prison in Kabul on Friday, where a bloody escape attempt left at least eight dead.

## Ashcroft praises Britain for stopping terror plots

BY HAROLD HECKLE

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft on Friday said he was confident Britain would resolve the controversy surrounding an anti-terrorist bill that allows it to hold suspects indefinitely without trial and praised police action in that country for averting several serious attacks.

"I have not read the specific decision of the authorities in Great Britain, but I am confident from having spoken to British officials that they will find a way to defend the people of Great Britain," Ashcroft told reporters during a one-day trip to Madrid.

"We know that several plots against individuals in Britain have been disrupted," he said, but gave no details. "We know

that they were very serious plots that were designed to be very damaging in tragic ways to the people of the U.K."

Recent media reports in Britain have said police and security agencies thwarted a Sept. 11-style attack in London that allegedly targeted Heathrow airport and three skyscrapers in the Docklands development of east London.

Britain's government has been heavily criticized over the anti-terror bill. On Thursday the country's highest court ruled that the detentions were discriminatory, disproportionate and incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

In Madrid as part of a European tour, Ashcroft signed treaties on extradition and legal assistance with his Spanish counterpart Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar.



Tourists take pictures in front of a massive billboard Friday showing photographs of Iraqi prisoners ignored by American soldiers in front of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, Cuba. The U.S. mission ignored a demand earlier this week to remove Christmas decorations that include a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government, so Cuba erected the billboard in response.

## Cuba counters U.S. decorations with Abu Ghraib abuse billboard

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuba responded Friday to U.S. diplomats' refusal to take down Christmas decorations by putting up a huge billboard in front of the U.S. Interest Section emblazoned with a swastika and showing photographs of Iraqi prisoners being abused by American soldiers.

The billboard, put up overnight, had a large swastika in red and the word "fascists" covered with a "Made in the U.S.A." stamp.

It sat prominently on the Male-

con, Havana's coastal highway, facing the mission's offices.

An American diplomat in Havana speaking on condition of anonymity said Friday that the torture of prisoners at Iraqi Abu Ghraib prison has been reported and discussed openly, and that those responsible are being prosecuted.

"On the other hand, the Cuban government does not allow a single word of dissent in its media, jails those who dare espouse different ideas and has not allowed [anyone] to visit Cuban political prisoners

since the late 1980s," the official said.

The U.S. Interest Section, headed by chief James Cason, ignored a demand earlier this week to remove Christmas decorations that included a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government.

The trimmings included a Santa Claus, candy canes and white lights wrapped around palm trees — and a sign reading "75" — a reference to 75 Cuban dissidents jailed last year.

## Turkey compromises

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The Dutch prime minister confirmed Friday that Turkey had accepted a compromise formula on recognition of Cyprus, paving the way for talks next year on Turkish membership of the European Union.

"Turkey has accepted the hand we offered to them," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, whose country holds the current EU presidency, told reporters.

## U.S.-Japan defense

TOKYO — Japan and the United States on Friday agreed to boost cooperation in their missile defense programs — the first step in carrying out new defense guidelines.

Japan's Defense Chief Yoshinori Ono and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker penned a memorandum that allows the two nations to share information on ballistic missile defense systems, a Defense Agency spokesman said.

From The Associated Press

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# Sharon: Israel ready to work with Palestine

By STEVEN GUTKIN

The Associated Press

HERZLIYA, Israel — Declaring 2005 a year of opportunity, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held out the prospect of an independent state for the Palestinians if they stop violence and said he is ready to coordinate a Gaza pullout with them.

Sharon's speech was strikingly

optimistic, a sign of change in the post-Yasser Arafat era, but Palestinian leaders said it fell short of expectations.

In Gaza, fighting continued. Israeli troops raided the Khan Yunis refugee camp Friday after Palestinian mortar fire killed a Thai worker in a Jewish settlement and injured 17 people, including 11 soldiers, in the past week.

Five Palestinians, including at

least three gunmen, were killed in Friday's army raid. Bulldozers began knocking down buildings, and hundreds of Palestinians fled their homes for fear the army would demolish them. Dozens sought refuge in a hospital.

Seven Palestinian civilians, including an ambulance driver, were wounded in the fighting, hospital officials said. One Israeli soldier was wounded when Palestinians

fired an anti-tank missile at forces in the area, the army said.

Addressing an academic conference Thursday evening, Sharon said Arafat had been the main obstacle to peace and his death in November turned 2005 into a "year of great opportunity."

Sharon has signaled he would work with Arafat's successor, likely to be PLO chief Mahmoud

Abbas, the front-runner in Jan. 9 presidential elections.

Sharon said he is determined to go ahead with the planned withdrawal from Gaza and four West Bank settlements in 2005, "with conviction and without hesitation." The withdrawal is set to start July 3 and to be completed within three months. A final Cabinet vote on approving the pullout was initially scheduled for June.

## Duma OKs terror bill

MOSCOW — The lower house of the Russian parliament on Friday gave tentative approval to an anti-terrorism bill that would expand the government's powers and impose tight restrictions on media coverage of anti-terror efforts, which critics said would hurt freedom of speech.

The State Duma voted 385-47 with one abstention to approve the bill in the first of three required readings. It also needs to be endorsed by the upper house and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law.

The bill, written by members of the Kremlin-backed United Russia party that dominates the Duma, sets rules for anti-terror operations and determines the responsibilities of different government structures. It allows the government to introduce special security regimes to combat terrorism that involve temporary bans on rallies and pickets, curfews and other restrictions.

## U.N. office finds bug

GENEVA — A secret listening device found at the Geneva offices of the United Nations was in a room adjoining a main conference hall, where it could have been used to eavesdrop on any private conversations, the global body said Friday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and other foreign ministers of the U.N. Security Council discussed the postwar Iraq situation in the main hall last year. It was not immediately clear who used the smaller room.

The eavesdropping equipment could be Russian or East European in origin and was made three to four years ago, one expert told Swiss television.

Workers found the device during renovation work this fall on the room, spokeswoman for the U.N. office in Geneva.

## Bombs found on bus

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian police seized a cache of bombs on a bus Friday, days after foreign governments warned that terrorists were preparing to launch fresh attacks in the country, the police chief said.

Police arrested 15 passengers, including the driver of the bus, which was stopped in the West Javanese town of Bandung.

Three of the those detained were being questioned "intensively," said West Java detective chief Col. Ahmad Abdi.

Media reports described the bombs as primitive homemade. It appeared they were being transported in the bus and were not primed to go off.

From The Associated Press



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## IN THE STATES

## Bush signs intelligence bill

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Friday signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence gathering in 50 years, hoping to improve the spy network that failed to prevent the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Our vast intelligence enterprise will become more unified, coordinated and effective," Bush said. "It will enable us to better do our duty, which is to protect the American people."

The 563-page bill, which endured a thorny path to congressional passage, also aims to tighten borders and aviation security. It creates a federal counterterrorism center and a new intelligence director, but Bush did not announce a candidate for that post at Friday's ceremony.

"A key lesson of Sept. 11 is that America's intelligence agencies must work together as a single, unified enterprise," Bush said.

The Sept. 11 Commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to prevent the attacks. The government failed to recognize the danger posed by al-Qaida and was ill-prepared to respond to the terrorist threat, the report concluded.

Bush was joined at the signing ceremony by CIA Director Porter Goss, FBI Director Robert Mueller,

## President seeks spending cuts

WASHINGTON — President Bush is considering asking Congress to freeze domestic spending next year or cut it slightly, even as he prods lawmakers to allow younger workers to divert some of their Social Security taxes into personal investment accounts.

The two plans, which promise to be dominant issues next year, share a common thread: massive federal deficits that have set consecutive records, peaking at \$413 billion last year. The shortfalls have prompted Bush to seek savings from non-defense, non-domestic security programs, and have limited his options for shoring up Social Security for the looming retirement of baby boomers.

"This is an issue on which I campaigned and I'm still standing," Bush said of revamping Social Security at a White House

economic conference, words he hoped would prompt support from lawmakers loathe to meddle with the giant retirement system.

Bush wants to let younger workers take part of the Social Security taxes they now pay and invest the money in private accounts. Democrats say the proposal would enrich Wall Street bankers while further weakening the solvency of Social Security.

In 2018, Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. In 2042, the system will be able to cover 73 percent of promised benefits, according to Social Security's trustees.

Bush said the country can't afford to wait any longer to fix the problem.

"The crisis is now," the president told the economic forum.

— The Washington Post

er, members of Congress, leaders of the Sept. 11 commission and relatives of people killed on that terrorist attack.

The new position of national intelligence director was one of the bill's most controversial aspects. Although the legislation gives the new director strong budget authority, its language is complex enough that there could be continued debate over the exact extent

of the director's power. But Bush attempted to leave no doubt about the sweeping nature of the intelligence director's budgetary authority.

Some names that have been mentioned for the post include CIA Director Porter Goss; Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the head of the National Security Agency; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

## More details of WTC memorial unveiled

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The memorial honoring World Trade Center victims will include a forest of oak trees with a clearing for Sept. 11 gatherings and a Memorial Hall between the twin reflecting pools that will mark the footprints of the lost towers, officials announced Thursday.

Among the new elements of the site released Thursday were the Memorial Hall, a 1.5-acre clearing at ground level for public gatherings, and the exposed supports of columns that supported the twin towers.

John Whitehead, chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency overseeing rebuilding, called Memorial Hall a new public space where visitors will be able to "review a directory of the names, locating their loved ones among the souls that are there."

Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, victims' family members and designers of the site also attended a news conference a few blocks from



Architects Michael Arad, left, Peter Walker, center, and Max Bond discuss their design for a memorial at the World Trade Center during a press conference in New York on Thursday.

the trade center site to release details of the memorial design.

Michael Arad's design, "Reflecting Absence," was chosen earlier this year out of more than 5,000 submissions from around the world.

## Celebrex heart risk

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. said it has found an increased risk of heart attacks with patients taking its top-selling painkiller Celebrex, a drug that is in the same class as Vioxx, but has no plans to remove it from the market.

Pfizer announced Friday that it found the increased risk in one of two long-term cancer prevention

trials, while the other trial showed no increased risk.

The National Cancer Institute, which was conducting the study for Pfizer, suspended the use of Celebrex after discovering that patients taking 400mg to 800mg of the drug daily had a 2.5 times greater risk of experiencing major heart problems than those who were not. A separate cancer study found no increased heart

risk with patients taking 400mg of Celebrex per day.

Both Celebrex and Vioxx, which is made by Merck & Co., are a type of drug called cox-2 inhibitors, which have become popular because of their effectiveness in treating the pain of arthritis and other ailments. Vioxx was pulled from the market in September because of safety concerns.

From The Associated Press



Officers, with guns drawn, block an entrance to the Crystal Cathedral complex after a shooting incident at the site Thursday in Garden Grove, Calif. No one was hit when a gunman opened fire Thursday, and children in a church day care were rushed to safety, police said.

## Church conductor opens fire, kills self

BY LAURA WIDES

The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — The longtime conductor of the Crystal Cathedral's orchestra shot himself to death Friday at the southern California landmark church after a nine-hour standoff that began when he opened fire as congregants prepared for a Christmas pageant.

Johnnie Carl, 57, had barricaded himself in a bathroom and shot himself early Friday morning as police officers tried to talk to him. Carl, who also had made records with Celine Dion, the London Symphony and others, had grappled with depression, authorities said.

He had fired about four shots in his office, and it did not appear he was trying to hit anybody, police said. Children in a day care center were rushed to safety. No one else was injured in the incident.

The cathedral, a huge, spiraling structure of glass and steel not far from Disneyland, is home to the Rev. Robert Schuller's international Crystal Cathedral Ministries and claims a congrega-

tion of more than 10,000 members. The internationally televised "Hour of Power" is broadcast from there.

The first shots were fired Thursday afternoon, less than two hours before the scheduled start of the cathedral's annual "Glory of Christmas" holiday show, for which Carl had arranged the prerecorded music. The two Thursday shows were canceled.

The 78-year-old Schuller, who was at home when the shooting happened, taped a message for Carl, who had been conductor for 29 years. But police did not have a chance to play it or another message from Carl's wife. They did play one from a friend who had helped Carl in the past, police said.

In a statement, Schuller hailed his friend as "a creative genius whose beautiful arrangements and superb conducting set new levels of excellence for sacred music. His music brought joy to the millions of viewers around the world who watch the Crystal Cathedral's 'Hour of Power' television program each week."

Carl is survived by his wife, Linda, and three children.

# Bush has history of taking on embattled U.N. leaders

By BARRY SCHWEID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, cool to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan as he copes with calls for his resignation, has a track record of trying to oust heads of U.N. agencies.

This week, the administration called on Mohamed ElBaradei, the Egyptian diplomat who heads the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, to step down after completing a second term next summer.

And two years ago, the administration was instrumental in the dismissal of Jose Mauricio Bustani, a Brazilian who was head of the U.N. chemical weapons regulatory body.

The International Labor Organization ruled last year Bustani was wrongly dismissed. The administration had accused him of mismanagement, but his supporters said he was targeted because he opposed the war with Iraq.

In Annan's case, it is a matter of the administration keeping its distance while investigators look into charges of corruption in the Iraqi oil-for-food program. It permitted Iraq under Saddam Hussein to sell oil — despite an economic embargo — provided that the proceeds were used for food and medicine for the hard-pressed Iraqi people.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., last month called Annan's resignation "inevitable," especially in light of revelations that his son, Koko Annan, received \$30,000 a year for more than five years from a Swiss-based company under investigation in connection with the U.N. program.

Five House Republicans have called for Annan to resign. One of them, Rep. Scott Garrett of New Jersey, said beyond that, "the question is whether he should be in jail."

Annan, who was in Washington on Thursday to speak to the Council on Foreign Relations, met with Secretary of State Colin Powell and his designated

successor, Condoleezza Rice, mostly about scheduled elections next month in Iraq.

However, the controversy swirling about the U.N. program was never far from the surface.

Annan's speech was largely about updating the United Nations, including how it might respond to terror and disease.

But he began it with a calm pledge to support his appointed investigators, headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

"We must get to the bottom of these allegations," Annan said, adding that all U.N. staff have been directed to cooperate or face disciplinary measures, including dismissal.

Asked earlier at a news conference how he felt about Bush not seeing him, Annan said, "I don't feel snubbed." He added, "The president and I have met on many occasions, and we also do talk on the phone."

Still, Bush last week declined an opportunity to endorse Annan at a news conference.

Powell, meanwhile, did not spring to Annan's defense Thursday, saying carefully, "We want to get the truth out, and we want to see these investigations come to a conclusion so responsibility and accountability can be assigned. And the world wants to see the results of these investigations as soon as possible, as well."

Ivo Daalder, senior fellow for policy studies at the Brookings Institution, said the Bush administration has established a pattern of disdain for the United Nations and other international institutions and is "not afraid to use its muscle to remove people not to our liking."

Daalder said in an interview that the administration got rid of Bustani, the director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and is trying to oust ElBaradei as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency because "he had the temerity to disagree with the United States on Iraq — and worse, was proved right."



Customers leave a grocery store holding a flu shot clinic in Seattle on Dec. 7.

## More people may get access to flu vaccine

By CHARLES PILLER  
Los Angeles Times

Federal health authorities are considering broadening the range of people who can receive a flu shot because of an unexpected quantity of unused vaccine.

The stocks exist because only about one-third of those who were encouraged to get a shot — a high risk group that includes the elderly, people with chronic medical conditions and health care workers who interact with patients — have been vaccinated.

During last year's flu season, 54 percent of high-risk people were vaccinated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that its Advisory Committee on Immunization

Practices will meet Friday to consider providing the shots to more people.

Much of the U.S. flu vaccine supply was lost when contamination was discovered in August at the Chiron Corp. production plant in Liverpool, England. "If there isn't very much flu, a lot of people think it wasn't going to be a problem. ... It's human nature," he said. "The critical message here is that it's not too late."

If the CDC expands the list of who should be vaccinated, it would follow moves adopted earlier this week by the California Department of Health Services and L.A. County.

Projected supplies would permit 65 million people to be vaccinated — still below what is considered ideal.

# Departing NASA chief says he leaves without regrets

## Decision to cancel Hubble mission criticized by prestigious scientific panel

By MARCIA DUNN  
The Associated Press

SEAN CANAVERA, Fla. — Cape O'Keefe, NASA's departing boss, said Friday he does not regret canceling the last shuttle mission to the Hubble Space Telescope — or anything else during his five years on the job.

O'Keefe's decision nearly a year ago prohibiting astronauts from repairing the Hubble, on post-Columbia safety grounds, was by far his most controversial and was challenged by a prestigious scientific panel just last week.

"The decision that I made I intend to stand by," O'Keefe said in a news conference. He said a pair of design reviews for a potential robotic mission to prolong Hubble's life, scheduled for March and August, "will tell us a lot more about this rather than guessing."

Unless astronauts or robots get to Hubble within a few years to install fresh batteries, gyroscopes and other equipment, its breath-taking observations of the cosmos will cease.

"I don't know that there's a whole lot that I would have done differently," O'Keefe said. "I don't spend any amount of time, I've got to tell you flat out, really

thinking about woulda, coulda, shoulda's and looking backward. Every minute you spend looking backward is time wasted from not looking forward."

O'Keefe met with reporters and then formally addressed NASA employees for the first time since resigning Monday. On Thursday, he was selected as the new chancellor of Louisiana State University.

He said it was appropriate for his yet-to-be-selected successor to preside over the shuttle's re-

turn to flight in late spring, since that is the first step in President Bush's plan to send astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars.

In a speech televised at NASA centers nationwide, O'Keefe assured employees that his decision to leave NASA was with mixed emotions and based on family considerations. The father of three teenagers, the eldest of whom will go off to college next fall, will more than triple his \$158,000 annual government salary at LSU.

He recalled the "wonderful

high moments" of landing two rovers on Mars and helping to develop the president's space exploration plan.

He also reflected on the heart-break of last year's Columbia accident and told employees that "if history is any guide," there will be more triumph ahead — and probably tragedy, too.

O'Keefe plans to remain at NASA until February to allow time for the president to select a new space agency chief and for the Senate to confirm the nomination.

“Every minute you spend looking backward is time wasted ...”

Sean O'Keefe  
Departing NASA chief

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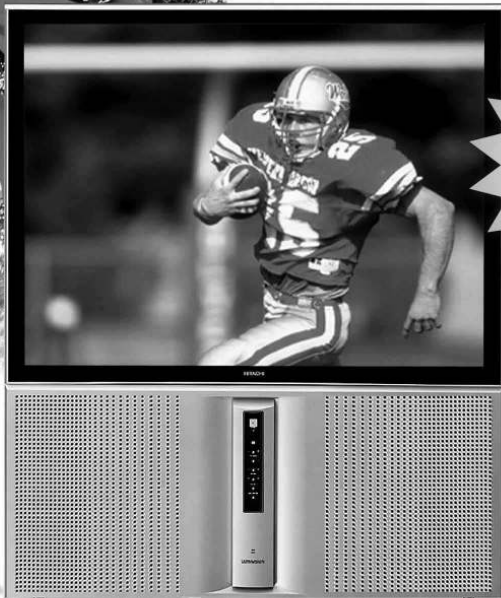
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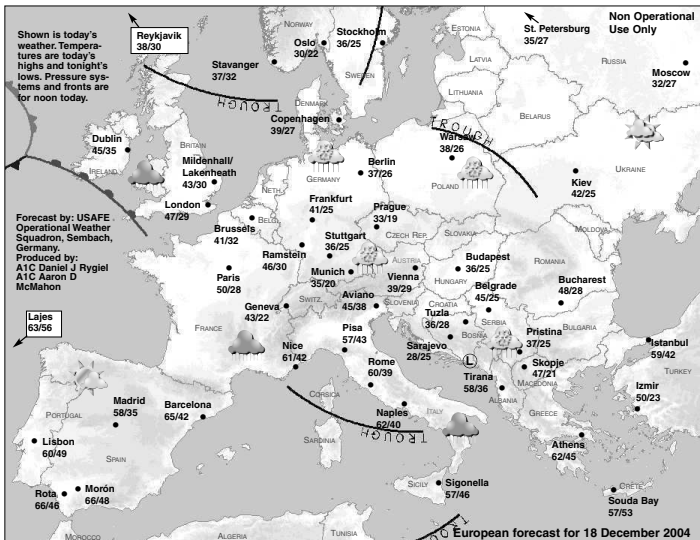
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## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in low 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 20s to low 30s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy skies with morning fog and rain/snow. Highs in the upper 20s to upper 30s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

**France:** Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s, Sunday lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain/snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to low 40s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s to upper 40s, Sunday lows in the low 20s to low 30s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s, Sunday lows in the mid 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Mostly cloudy skies with morning fog. Highs in the mid 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 30s.

**Southern Italy:** Cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the 40s to 50s, Sunday lows in the 40s.

**Kosovo:** Cloudy skies with morning freezing rain and fog with afternoon snow. Highs in the 30s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

**Norway:** Cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the 30s, Sunday lows in the low 20s to low 30s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s, Sunday lows in the mid 30s to upper 40s.

**Turkey:** Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 20s in the north to low 50s in the south. Sunday lows in the low teens in the northwestern regions to low 40s in the southeastern regions.



## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

HI	LO	OK	HI	LO	OK
Albany, N.Y.	38	31	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	36	28	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Albuquerque	58	40	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Albuquerque	56	38	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Anchorage	54	25	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Anchorage	52	23	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Ann Arbor	48	30	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Ann Arbor	46	28	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Atlanta	64	36	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Atlanta	62	34	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Baltimore	45	29	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Baltimore	43	27	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Birmingham	60	34	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Birmingham	58	32	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Boston	38	22	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Boston	36	20	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Boulder	52	34	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Boulder	50	32	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Buffalo	38	22	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Buffalo	36	20	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Cambridge, N.C.	50	34	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Cambridge, N.C.	48	32	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	45	29	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	43	27	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Chicago	38	22	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy
Chicago	36	20	Cldy	Cldy	Cldy

37	22	Pdly	Nashville	49	32	Pdly	San Diego	95	38	
38	23	Pdly	New Orleans	41	24	Pdly	San Francisco	77	46	Cd
39	24	Pdly	New York	43	26	Pdly	Seattle	77	46	Cd
40	25	Pdly	Omaha	46	29	Pdly	St. Louis	66	42	Cd
41	26	Pdly	Phoenix	48	31	Pdly	St. Paul, MN	66	42	Cd
42	27	Pdly	North Platte	47	15	Pdly	San Jose	64	49	Cd
43	28	Pdly	Portland	49	32	Pdly	San Jose	64	49	Cd
44	29	Pdly	Portland	70	47	Pdly	Seattle	61	37	Pdly
45	30	Pdly	Reno	49	32	Pdly	Seattle	61	37	Pdly
46	31	Pdly	San Francisco	37	30	Pdly	Shanghai	62	38	Pdly
47	32	Pdly	San Francisco	42	35	Pdly	Shanghai	62	38	Pdly
48	33	Pdly	Philadelphia	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
49	34	Pdly	Philadelphia	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
50	35	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
51	36	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
52	37	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
53	38	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
54	39	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
55	40	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
56	41	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
57	42	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
58	43	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
59	44	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
60	45	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
61	46	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
62	47	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
63	48	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
64	49	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
65	50	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
66	51	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
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72	57	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
73	58	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
74	59	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
75	60	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
76	61	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
77	62	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
78	63	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
79	64	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
80	65	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
81	66	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
82	67	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
83	68	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
84	69	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
85	70	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
86	71	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
87	72	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
88	73	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
89	74	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
90	75	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
91	76	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
92	77	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
93	78	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
94	79	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
95	80	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
96	81	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
97	82	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
98	83	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
99	84	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly
100	85	Pdly	Portland	42	30	Pdly	Singapore	63	39	Pdly

## A fatal test

**ID** OROFINO — A man has been charged with involuntary manslaughter for fatally shooting his friend through a protective vest on an apparent dare, police said.

Alexander Joseph Swandic, 20, died of a gunshot wound to the heart after donning a protective vest and asking David John Hueth, 30, to shoot him, police said.

Hueth initially told police that Swandic's wound was self-inflicted, but later admitted to the shooting. The two had apparently tested the vest by propping it against a dirt bank and shooting it twice, police said.

Hueth faces a preliminary hearing on Dec. 27. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

## PETA punishment

**AK** ANCHORAGE — An animal rights group is recommending that an Anchorage woman accused of neglecting more than 100 cats in her home get psychiatric help if convicted of animal cruelty.

PETA sent a letter to city prosecutor Nick Spilopoulos setting out what it thinks should happen in the case of Krystal Allen, a 52-year-old woman charged with two counts of animal cruelty for allegedly keeping animals in an inhumane manner by failing to provide adequate food, water, housing and care. A third count of animal cruelty stems from an incident in which Allen allegedly hit a cat so hard it hit a wall.

The charges are misdemeanors. Each is punishable by a maximum one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

## Fog collision

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Two tractor trailers and at least 10 cars collided in dense fog on a Northern California highway. No one was killed but several people were injured, officials said.

Visibility was about an eighth of a mile when the pileup occurred on Interstate 5 north of Sacramento, the California Highway Patrol said. A dump truck lay on its side and several cars were crushed in the pileup.

Officials could not immediately comment on the severity or number of injuries.

## Snake slithers into mail

**MO** CLIFTON — A Missouri family's pet snake, missing for a month, turned up alive and slithering in a box they had sent to New Jersey, about 1,000 miles away.

The box contained a DVD player that was being sent for repairs.

The family believes Pace the python crawled into the box before they sealed it and sent it to the factory via UPS.

Sheila Himmerick said her family had been looking for the snake when she received a call from Samsung's New Jersey repair shop, CVE Inc., wondering if the snake in the box belonged to her and when it was her way of expressing customer dissatisfaction.

Paco will be shipped back home to Missouri, this time in temperature-controlled comfort.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man bites dog

**FL** GAINESVILLE — A man has been charged with animal cruelty for allegedly biting his Jack Russell terrier as punishment, and police say he used a 200-pound bull mastiff in an attempt to keep back officers who arrived to arrest him.

The mother of Mount Lee Lacy's girlfriend called police because she was concerned about an argument between him and her daughter about Lacy's unusual discipline method for his dog Lady.

Officers kicked down the apartment door when they heard an argument and a barking dog. Lacy was holding the mastiff named Breaker on a turtleneck 6 feet inside the door. The officers drew their guns but didn't fire.

Lacy, 21, was handcuffed and jailed on one count each of felony animal cruelty and resisting arrest without violence.

## House built under bridge

**IL** CHICAGO — For three or four years, a homeless man achieved the impossible: He found a cheap place to live on pricey Lake Shore Drive.

Actually, Richard Dorsay lived under Lake Shore Drive, in a wooden shack built into the beams and girders of the drawbridge that crosses the Chicago River.



## Keeping balance

Thomas Thale, dressed as a toy soldier and on stilts, gathers his streamers and bag as he attempts to climb the stairs outside KSDK plaza in St. Louis.

Dorsay was recently evicted after another man arrested in suburban Streamwood told police about the home under the bridge.

When authorities went inside, they found an elaborate setup that tapped into the bridge's electricity to power a television, microwave, space heater and PlayStation video game system. There, Dorsay could relax, turn on a Chicago Bears game, invite friends over and pop open some beers.

The home had its quirks. Whenever Dorsay heard the bells that signal the arms of the bridge would soon rise to let boats through, he held on as the bridge slowly pitched him forward.

## Founder statue planned

**TX** HOUSTON — A 60-foot statue of Texas founding father Stephen F. Austin is planned for an Angleton park near one of his early settlements.

The concrete statue, scheduled for completion in May, will tower over a 10-acre park. Promoters said they believed it was time to honor Austin.

Being created by Houston sculptor David Adickes at his Houston warehouse studio, the statue will show Austin in fringed buckskin with a 52-foot rifle at his side. It will be just a few feet shorter than "Big Sam," Adickes' gargantuan concrete-and-steel image of statesman Sam Houston erected near Huntsville in 1994.

Austin is hailed as the "Father of Texas" for his role in bringing thousands of Anglo settlers to Texas when it was controlled by Mexico, and his namesake is the state's capital.

## Nude lamp debate

**VT** MONTPELIER — A group preparing to celebrate the life of a Vermont-born sculptor is petitioning Gov. James Douglas to have a replica of Hiram Powers' most famous work — which portrays a nude chained woman — on his Statehouse desk.

The petitioners, who include the wife of U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, say "The Greek Slave" is one of the most important pieces of art ever created by a Vermont native.

The governor wants the lamp that incorporates the replica removed from his office desk during the upcoming legislative session. Douglas spokesman Jason Gibbs said the governor was concerned the statue could be broken, but he also said there was concern that school children would see the nude.

Gibbs said the lamp would remain on display at the Statehouse while the Legislature is in session, but not on the governor's desk.

## Twins deliver twins

**GA** ATLANTA — Two twin sisters are seeing double — or make that quadruple — after delivering two sets of twin boys.

Twenty-one-year-olds Ashley Spinks of Indianapolis and Andrea Springer of Conyers, Georgia, delivered their boys by scheduled Caesarean sections about an hour apart at Northside Hospital.

The two couples said twin runs in the families of all four parents, and that they did not use fertility drugs to conceive the babies.



All I want is sleep A Santa-in-training lets Gavin Eshleman, 4 months, take a little rest during a visit to Park City Mall in Lancaster, Pa.



Practice makes perfect Anna Kicas, a senior at Traverse City West Senior High School in Traverse City, Mich., practices with other members of TC West's orchestra. The group was preparing for their upcoming performance at the Michigan Music Educators Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Making repairs Alexandra Rum paints a statue of a shepherd from a manger scene at St. Mary's Church in Fishkill, N.Y.





If the snow won't come to you ... Janina Richmond-Reck, 4, makes an angel in a bunch of leaves in Independence, Kan.



A tasteful gift Nonja, 52, the oldest orangutan in the United States, opens a holiday gift filled with bananas, raisins, and popcorn at Miami Metrozoo in Miami. Throughout the month of December, animals in the zoo receive wrapped gifts filled with their favorite treats as part of an annual celebration.



Standing tall Snow lies on the statue "Lincoln Walks at Midnight" in front of the West Virginia state capitol in Charleston, W.Va.



Moving time Matt Lippiatt of Anderson, S.C., carries the boxspring of a mattress set to a delivery truck outside Hampton Furniture in Anderson, S.C.

## Drug deal busted

**ID** NEZ PERCE — A man picked the wrong location for an alleged drug deal. Telling an eyewitness to mind his own business also was not a good idea.

It was in front of the home of Lewis County's sheriff-elect, who was sitting on his front porch.

"They really picked the wrong house to be in front of," said Phil Steen, who will be sworn into office next month.

Steen had only lived in the home about three weeks when he decided to enjoy the evening air. But some suspicious activity on the street impaired his view.

Instead of looking elsewhere, Steen ran the suspects' license plates. It led to a search of two houses and a vehicle, then the arrest of James MacArthur, 46.

MacArthur is charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## Let it Snow

**PA** DORMONT — Forget all that stuff about a white Christmas. Jeweler Barry Landay's customers are hoping for a white New Year's Day.

That's because, for the fourth straight year, Landay's Style Jewelry in this Pittsburgh suburb is offering a full refund to anyone who buys jewelry between now and Christmas Eve if at least six inches of snow fall at Pittsburgh International Airport on New Year's Day.

Landay hasn't had to pay up in past years. But he's not crazy — he's insured by a policy covering the promotion.

The sign in the window of Landay's store reads "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow" and features another big word: Free.

## Giant seaplane found

**ID** HONOLULU — Researchers cataloging underwater debris around Pearl Harbor have made a giant discovery — the wreckage of one of the largest aircraft ever built.

A Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory submersible found the main body of the Marshall Mars, a Navy seaplane that had a 200-foot wingspan and sank following an engine fire in 1950.

The Mars aircraft series was built to move cargo, primarily between California and Hawaii. The Mars Marshall once carried more than 308 people aloft, a record at the time.

Pieces of the Mars Marshall were first found in August when the nose and keel were found, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

## Rancher charged

**UT** LOGAN — A 69-year-old rancher who authorities allege habitually let his cattle run loose was arrested for manslaughter after a woman was killed in a collision with one of his cows, police said.

Darrell Kunzler of Benson was arrested, according to the Utah Highway Patrol. Kimberly Johnson of Auburn, Wash., a 40-year-old mother of six, was killed Nov. 27 when her vehicle collided with one of Kunzler's Black Angus steers on Utah Route 30.

According to an arrest warrant, Kunzler has a 30-year pattern of

failing to properly contain his livestock, despite repeated requests by law enforcement.

Kunzler is charged with one count of criminal homicide, manslaughter and five misdemeanor counts of reckless endangerment.

## Judge's robe disputed

**AL** MONTGOMERY — A judge refused to delay a trial when an attorney objected to his wearing a judicial robe with the Ten Commandments embroidered on the front in gold.

Circuit Judge Ashley McKathan showed up at his Covington County courtroom in southern Alabama wearing the robe. Attorneys who try cases at the courthouse said they had not seen him wearing it before. The commandments were described as being big enough to read by anyone near the judge.

Attorney Riley Powell, defending a client charged with DUI, filed a motion objecting to the robe and asking that the case be continued. He said McKathan denied both motions.

McKathan said that he believes the Ten Commandments represent the truth "and you can't divorce the law from the truth. ... The Ten Commandments can help a judge know the difference between right and wrong."

He said he doesn't believe the commandments on his robe would have an adverse effect on jurors.

## Sloppy thieves

**MO** POPLAR BLUFF — To catch two suspects, police needed only to follow the trail of stolen goods — literally.

In their haste to make off with stolen items, the thieves dropped some of them along the way, creating a series of obvious clues for police to follow.

Police said the trail was about 100 yards long, and led from a burglarized store, DCC Enterprises, to a residence where the suspects were hiding with stolen merchandise.

Two juveniles were arrested on suspicion of second-degree burglary and stealing more than \$500.

## Police search for mother

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Police are asking the public to help find the mother of a dead infant found in the wastewater tank of a Greyhound bus.

The body of a third-trimester boy was found by a bus maintenance worker after the bus arrived in the city. Police are particularly interested in speaking to passengers who were on the bus.

"We don't know if the child ever breathed," police Lt. John Hennessey said. "We want to know if anybody saw anyone who was emotionally distressed or who may have given birth."

## Governor to sell license

**WY** CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave Friedrich has again offered his complimentary big-game hunting licenses for sale to benefit a variety of Wyoming wildlife-related projects, according to the governor's office. By statute, the governor can receive up to 20 complimentary big-game licenses each year. In 2003 and 2004, the governor's big game licenses raised \$730,000 for wildlife-related projects.

Stories and photos from wire services

## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 State Shock 9:30 Kim Trites "O Boyz" (E) 10:00 Teen Titans "Terra" 10:30 Average Maat Ninja Turt. 11:00 Dragonball GT 11:30 Justice League 12:00 Teen Kids News (E) 12:30 Tutenstein (E) 13:00 Endurance (E) 13:40 Scout's Safari "Ritual" (E) 14:30 Skunked TV "Who Let the Bird" 14:30 Duff 15:00 Most Extreme "Vortex" Letta injections. 15:30 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "What's in a Name?" 17:00 Kashi! Real Monsters 17:30 Kashi! Power 18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 18:30 Rugrats 19:00 Movie **** "Toy Story 1995. Adventures" Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. 19:30 20:30 Movie **** "Was the Night" (2001, Fantasy) Brian Cranston, Josh Zuckerman. 21:00 21:30 My So-Called Life 22:30 23:00 The Simpsons "HOMR" 23:30 The Simpsons "Poker Man"	9:00 (8-46) Movie **** "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" 1986. Science Fiction! William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy. 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius 9:30 Drake & Josh "Granny" 10:00 That's So Raven 10:30 Switch 11:00 Focus on the Force 11:30 American Adventure 12:00 Access Hollywood 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 Access Hollywood 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 Nightline 9:30 Air Force TV News 10:00 Harbortalk With Chris Matthews 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 College Football NCAA Division I-A Final - James Madison vs. Montana (From Chattanooga, Tenn. (Live) 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 Clean House 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30	9:00 Access Hollywood 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:40 14:30 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:30 23:00 23:30
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004							
00:00 Futurama 00:30 Futurama 1:00 Movie **** "Toy Story 1995. Adventures" Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 Movie **** "Men in Black" (1997) Will Smith 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30	11:00 (11:00) NFL Football Washington Redskins at Atlanta Falcons. 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30

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## FACES

## Johnson back in the black

Don Johnson can breathe easy again. All the creditors listed on bankruptcy petitions involving the former "Miami Vice" and "Nash Bridges" star have been paid off, Denver lawyer Lee Kutner said Tuesday.

Kutner said Johnson's companies should be emerging from bankruptcy soon.

"He has obtained new financing," Kutner said.

Los Angeles-based City National Bank used Johnson in March, seeking to force an auction of his 17-acre ranch near Aspen, Colo., to recoup \$930,000 it claimed he owed. The ranch was put up for sale for \$21 million, but Johnson ended up paying the debt in time.

Other bills paid include Aspen Valley Hospital (\$7,345), the Of Grape & Grain liquor store (\$37), Aspen's Islerian Rug Co. (\$1,228), Planted Earth in Carbondale (\$764) and the Aspen law firm of Garfield & Hecht (\$2,787).

"He paid his bill and he paid it in full," said Joan Boyles, owner of Carbondale Crystal River Valley Spas, which was owed \$4,966.



Johnson

## Royal champagne flirts flat at auction

The sale of a magnum of champagne from the 1981 wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles fizzled when auction bids failed to reach the reserve price.

Bidding for the bubbly fell flat at \$1,736, short of the \$1,929 reserve price at an auction in Swindon, west of London, on Wednesday.

The 1961 vintage Dom Perignon chosen for the year of Diana's birth — was one of 12 magnums bottled in a limited edition for the royal wedding.

Auction house spokesman Dominik Winter said he was disappointed the bottle hadn't sold.

"It just failed to perform. I guess people are not as willing as they used to be to spend their money on frivolous things," Winter said.

## HIV-stricken singer in good health

Andy Bell, lead singer of synth-pop duo Erasure, said he was "feeling fine" six years after being diagnosed with HIV.

In a statement posted on Erasure's Web site, Bell, 40, said he had been diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS in 1998 after falling ill with pneumonia on a trip to the Spanish island of Mallorca.

Bell, who recently had a double hip replacement, said he remained healthy and was "feeling fine" — in fact, "I have never felt better."

"Being HIV does not mean that you have AIDS. My life expectancy should be the same as anyone else's, so there is no need to panic," he said.

Bell and former Depeche Mode and Yazoo keyboardist Vince Clarke formed Erasure in 1985 and have had hits including "A Little Respect," "Sometimes" and "Ship of Fools."

## Disney taping India market

Walt Disney Co. will launch two new channels in English and regional languages in India in a market of 100 million preschool children — later this month.

The Disney Channel and the Toon Disney Channel will feature cartoons, animation movies, family dramas, live-action adventure stories and locally produced and hosted shows. Rajat Jain, managing director of the Indian arm of Walt Disney Television International, said Wednesday.

About 60 movies will be shown each month.

"India is a priority market for us," Jain told reporters. "With more than 100 million children, it's the world's biggest preschool market."

India will be the first Asia-Pacific market to air Toon Disney, an animation channel with characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, Jain said. The 24-hour channel will be available in English and Hindi in northern India, and in the Tamil and Telugu languages in the south.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Snoop's  
wid worldGangsta rapper  
at home in all  
environments

By GREG BRAXTON

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The group of young boys shifted uneasily, eyes fixed on the gangly figure towering over them. They were an exclusive audience about to hear Snoop Dogg do his latest rap. But they didn't feel so lucky — they knew it was going to be a bad rap on them.

"You better go gangsta — they can't beat us, so they're tryin' to cheat us!" snarled Snoop Dogg, tearing into the Rowland Heights Raiders, a team of 8- to 10-year-olds — including one of his two sons — in the Orange County Junior All-American Football League. The Raiders were taking on the Norwalk-Santa Fe Springs Saints, and though the unbeaten Raiders were ahead by a touchdown at halftime, the Saints were breaking their spine with rough-and-tumble play and crunching tackles.

The eyes of a few Raiders were wet with frustration and pain. The eyes of Snoop were narrow with rage. "You better get your minds right, or you're gonna get beat," the Raider coach growled. "I don't care about noddin' else, 'cause if you lose, I'm out! You're better than this team! You better get your focus back now, knowwhatImsayin'? Quit cryin' and do your job, get focused!" He gestured dismissively toward a cooler on the sidelines. "Now go get some oranges or something!"

Snoop ignored the nearby crowd of parents and fans in the stands of the Rowland Heights High School football stadium snapping pictures and shouting out to him. This was not show time.

For now, nothing else mattered: Not his chart-topping "Drop It Like It's Hot" single with staling producer Pharrell Williams that has again made him the champagne toast of the rap/musical world. Not his just-dropped album "R&G (Rhythm & Gangsta): The Masterpiece," already a best seller. Not his star turns this year in films such as "Stankys & Hunch" and "Soul Plane" that endeared him to a cross-section of moviegoers. Not his growing status as a pitchman for corporate America.

At this moment, he was merely Coach Snoop, desperate for another notch in the win column. He says the quest for a championship trophy with his boys is more fulfilling than acting or music, his two "girlfriends." And the tirade worked — the Raiders trounced the Saints in the second half. Overjoyed, Snoop jumped and downed around with the team in a victory celebration, then ran to a truck in the parking lot to award each player with a brand-new WRFP bike.

The scene united the conflicting sides of Snoop that have made him practically ubiquitous in today's pop culture — the strutting former thug from Long Beach who can "throw down" when pushed against the wall, the showman who shines in the spotlight; and the playful, generous artist who can turn into a 6-foot, 3½-inch kid at a moment's notice. As the rapper juggles his various prospects, youth sports has provided him much needed balance

amid the showbiz whirlwind enveloping him.

More than 10 years after his lazy, distinctive drawls made him one of the top original gangsta rappers on the West Coast scene, and more than eight years after being acquitted of first- and second-degree murder charges in the shooting death of a Los Angeles gang member, Snoop Dogg (who was born Calvin Broadus) wants to turn Hollywood into — to quote one of his hits — "a Doggy Dogg world."

Playing off his ill images as a non-nonsense gangsta with Pled Pled Pled appeal who can poke fun at himself, the 33-year-old is tackling a dizzying array of diverse projects designed to position him as a hip-hopper who can maneuver easily between the arenas of mainstream popular culture and hard-core rap. New ventures range from small independent films to clothing lines to video games to animated series.

Seemingly already unavoidable with his commercials, film appearances, TV guest shots and music videos, Snoop, along with the prestigious management company the Firm, is determined to further boost the profile of Snoop Inc.

"There's a definite strategy to what we're doing as far as shaping Snoop's future," said Constance Schwartz, the rapper's manager. "We don't want him everywhere, but we want him in all the right places. He's proven that he can do camos in movies, and now he wants to prove he's a serious actor."

While rappers such as Will Smith, Ice Cube, Queen Latifah, Eve and Missy Elliott have crossed over, most have opted to soften the harsh edge that first established them in the hip-hop world. Not so Snoop Dogg.

References to drug use and violence peppered throughout "Drop It Like It's Hot" are overshadowed by a sing-song chorus and an infectious percussive beat that could feel at home on any schoolyard playground. He was able to jump back and forth between his "Doggy Fizzle Television" MTV comedy series and less savory projects such as his video "Doggystyle Vol. 1."

Recently, he presented a lifetime achievement award to his friend and mentor Dr. Dre. Snoop was in midbride when Dre was attacked and a mauler broke out in the audience. Though Snoop was not involved in the riot, he issued a warning on stage when the fracas calmed down. "If y'all want problems with me and my crew, we want problems, too. So leave Dre alone and come see us."

Remarkable comedian Jimmy Kimmel on his ABC late-night show: "Snoop took the smoldering embers of hatred — and poured on some soothing gasoline."

Whether they're G-rated or X-rated, Snoop says, all his projects have a sincerity behind them that sometimes he has to help appeal.

"All I know how to be is Snoop Dogg, and sometimes he is a little negative, and sometimes he is a little positive," he says. "But for the most part, he's going to do more right than wrong."

Snoop Dogg



Princess Diana



Bell

"All I know how to be is Snoop Dogg, and sometimes he is a little negative, and sometimes he is a little positive."





# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



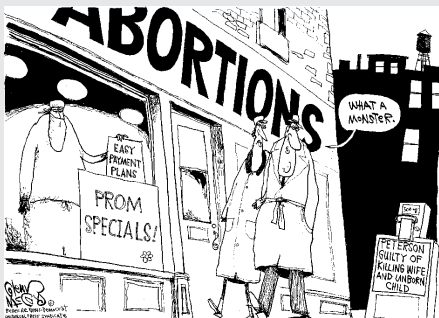
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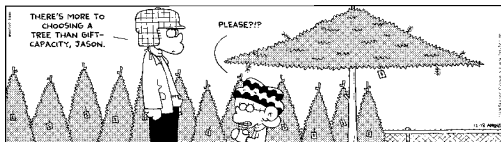
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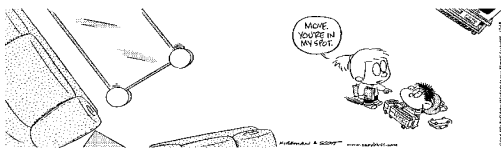
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



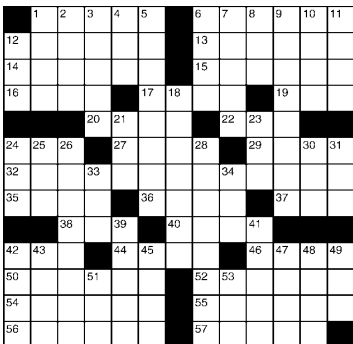
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Moving smoothly  
6 "Little Shop of Horrors"

- 12 Plaster art

- 16 Just adorable

- 17 Staff member?

- 19 Dapper fellow

- 20 Streamlet

- 22 Bill

- 24 Abbr. after a surname

- 27 Concluding passage

- 29 Plumbum

- 32 Crude but effective

- 35 Country singer Jackson

- 36 Plummet

- 37 Pirouette pivot

- 38 Eucalyptus product

- 40 Urban area

- 42 Navy rank (Abbr.)

- 44 Sends out invitations

- 46 Send forth

- 50 Lebanon's capital

- 52 Overly decorated

- 54 Get there

- 55 Snatched (on)

- 56 Bore more

## Down

- 1 Lady of the Haus

- 2 For fear that

- 3 "My Boo" singer

- 4 Lemniscate

- 5 Receive a file

- 6 Datum

- 7 Heron's cousin

- 8 Prior to

- 9 Recidivist

- 10 Small plateau

- 11 Paradise

- 12 Stern

- 13 Concluding passage

- 18 Satan

- 21 Pronoun in a

- 23 Pubotation

- 24 Historic period

- 25 Impresario

- 26 Precarious predicament

- 28 Staff, often

- 30 Fuss

- 31 Go blue

- 33 Wildebeest

- 34 On pens.

- 39 Strong purple

- 42 Meddler

- 43 In — way (ill)

- 44 "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-"

- 45 British gun

- 47 Wrestling surfaces

- 48 Particular

- 49 Cartoonist Key

- 51 Wardrobe malfunction

- 53 Eminem's genre

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-18 CRYPTOQUIP

MV SRAXA'C CZEASRMOF  
LZY TZO'S IWOS EZSRAX  
SZ VMOT ZYS, TZ LZY CWL

"EZE'C. SRA IZXT"?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TO CHEER UP A SAD PERSON ON VALENTINE'S DAY, I RECKON YOU HAVE TO SAY "TAKE HEART!"

Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals M

# Work dodger should seek help

**Dear Abby:** I have a good job, a nice house, a great family and great friends—but I'm miserable.

I hate my job, but instead of quitting, I call in sick. It has put me in danger of getting fired. I lie to my husband about the work I miss, and since I handle the finances, he doesn't realize what an impact it has. I feel like a horrible person, but I'm afraid to quit and go somewhere else. I have no other skills, and I wouldn't be able to make the same money elsewhere.

I'm also afraid my husband will find out and be furious. I feel I'm putting my family in financial jeopardy and risking everything because I can't show up for work.

I'm not sure what's wrong with me. I just wake up some mornings and can't face going in, so I hide out in my house and pretend that I go to work. I feel lazy and worthless. I think I may be depressed, but some weeks or

months I feel fine. What should I do?

—Going Crazy in Arizona

**Dear Abby:** May I offer a couple of suggestions? Your mood swings may be chemical. Make an appointment with your physician, explain what's going on and get a referral to a psychotherapist. Once that's done, pick up the phone and find the nearest school that offers career counseling. You may have more marketable skills than you give yourself credit for.

Please don't put it off. Hiding from your husband will only make this worse. The longer you hide it, the more upset he will be when he learns what he has been helping.

**Dear Abby:** For years you have printed letters from grandparents complaining that they don't receive thank-you notes. Well, I have a question: Do these

people send thank-you notes to their grandchildren for gifts they've received from them? I'm an active senior with 25 grandchildren. No matter how small the gift, I always write them a thank-you note.

Each child in a family gets his own. This year, I received a pencil, a hand-drawn picture, and some 99-cent earrings, among other things. They all merited a note.

The children love getting their own thank-you note. And as soon as children can print "Thank you" they should be encouraged to send their own.

—Olivia Grannay  
**Dear Granny:** I commend you for setting such a wonderful example for your grandchildren. One of the secrets of writing an effective thank-you is to do it immediately after receiving the gift, while the reaction is spontaneous.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 68440, Los Angeles 90068. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MONDE

HOACC

SACULE

YERSIM

www.jumble.com

Answer here: " " " " " "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TAKEN POWER ANEMIA THEORY

Answer: What she accomplished at her full-time job—PART-TIME WORK

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, suggested by the above cartoon.

# Husband is privately oppressive

**Dear Annie:** I have been married for two years to a man who appears to be the perfect gentleman. "Archie" is well liked in the community and seems to be a great husband and father, showering me and the children with attention and compliments—in public. The problem is, he is a completely different man at home. He yells at the children for trivial things, and has pushed my 6-year-old and knocked him over.

Archie monitors my phone calls, interrogating me and staying right by my side until the conversation is over. When he isn't home, he has called ID units around the house to track incoming calls. He has hidden digital tape recorders in vehicles I drive and even hacks into my e-mail. I am not allowed to go outside and unwind with my neighbor after a day of taking care of a house and five children unless he is sitting right there, or harassing me

## Annie's Mailbox



every five seconds to come inside.

I insisted Archie go for counseling, but he is so smooth he tells the counselor what he wants to hear and then goes right back to the same old thing. We currently are separated, and I have a protective order against him for assault and battery.

I am concerned that so many people do not know about Archie's other side. I don't want to create trouble for him or smear him in the community, but I am tired of people thinking he is some kind of saint who is being unjustly accused. They have no idea what he is really like. What should I say to them?

—Dixie in D.C.

**Dear Dixie:** Nothing. It's none of your business, and more importantly, you may be putting yourself or your children in jeopardy if Archie finds out you are publicizing his abusive behavior. Even those folks who believe he is saintly have their private

doubts. The truth eventually will surface. Don't rest it.

**Dear Annie:** "Potty-Peeved in El Paso" might feel better about her neighbor's lawn toilet if she maintains a good sense of humor.

Our town periodically rewards folks who have beautiful yards. When getting rid of an ugly green toilet, we took it to our daughter's yard, put plastic flowers in it, along with any other cheery lawn ornament we could find, and attached a sign saying "Mayor's Beautification Award." Her elderly neighbor actually congratulated her.

—Royal Flush in Wisconsin  
**Dear Wisconsin:** You must have great neighbors. Not everyone could handle a green toilet with flamingoes as a lawn decoration. Thanks for a good laugh.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



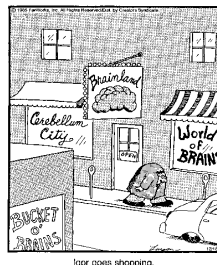
12-18  
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"The wires behind the computer need untangling too, Daddy."



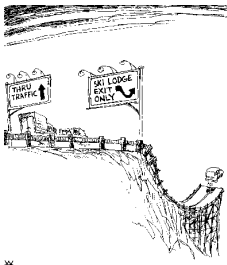
## Domis the Menace



## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur



"I COULD STAND A LOT MORE CHRISTMAS-TIME, AND A LOT LESS BATH-TIME!"

for gone shopping.

26 www.fox.com 12-18 12-18 www.fox.com 12-18 12-18



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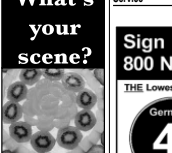
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4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below. \*

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

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† Private Party Rates apply only to individuals advertising merchandise or private property for sale, up to two major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for rent and commercial operations. Employment Rates apply for Jobs offered and Job Fairs. For Commercial or Employment Rate Information contact Stars & Stripes Classified. \* Payment is required in advance in order to publish ads. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, Check or Money Order. Please do not send cash. If an ad is not received by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next availability day. Please allow one extra day for all federal holidays. ‡ Classified ads rates include approximately 25 characters (this includes spaces) per line.

Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It's the responsibility of the advertiser to contact European Stars & Stripes Classified on the first date of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words using category (case-by-case): OAS, bold, italicized incorrectly, it will be corrected, but no payment will be given. Incorrect phone numbers, first name, wrong dates, wrong dates, or model listed incorrectly will result in a magazine for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and re-use any ad at its discretion for inappropriate for publishing. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

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Category #: \_\_\_\_\_ Run Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Ad: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Saturday

**AFN-Sports, 8 a.m.**-College football: NCAA Div. I-AA championship game, James Madison vs. Montana (radio).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**-College basketball: NCAA Division I championship game, Marquette vs. Cincinnati.  
**AFN-Pacific, 5 p.m.**-College basketball: Kentucky vs. Louisville.  
**AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.**-College basketball: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants.  
**AFN-Pacific, 8 p.m.**-College basketball: Texas at Wake Forest.  
**AFN-Pacific, 9 p.m.**-College basketball: Arizona at Marquette.  
**AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.**-College basketball: Oklahoma vs. Duke.  
**AFN-Pacific and Radio, 11 p.m.**-NFL: Washington at San Francisco.

## Sunday

**AFN-Pacific, 2 a.m.**-College basketball: Mississippi at Baylor.  
**AFN-Sports and Radio, 2:30 a.m.**-NFL: Carolina vs. New York Jets.  
**AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.**-College basketball: Georgia Tech vs. Georgia Tech.  
**AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.**-Golf: PGA Tour Year-End Special.  
**AFN-Sports, 10:30 a.m.**-Golf: Three Tour College Finals.  
**AFN-Pacific, 10:30 a.m.**-NFL: Denver at Oakland.  
**AFN-Pacific, 12:30 p.m.**-NFL: Minnesota at Detroit.  
**AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.**-NFL: Buffalo at Cincinnati.  
**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**-NFL: Seattle at N.Y. Giants.  
**AFN-Radio, 7 p.m.**-NFL: Denver at Kansas City.  
**AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.**-NFL: New Orleans at Tampa Bay.  
**AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.**-NFL: Jacksonville at Atlanta.  
**AFN-Sports and Radio, 10 p.m.**-NFL: St. Louis at Arizona.  
 All Times Central European Time due to indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.mylife.net](http://www.mylife.net) for more information.

## Pro football

## NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
N.Y. Jets	1	0	.923	305	121
Buffalo	2	0	.828	299	132
Indianapolis	3	0	.769	245	171
Jacksonville	4	0	.638	220	276
Tennessee	5	0	.308	209	343
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
Pittsburgh	1	0	.923	309	119
San Diego	2	0	.869	296	127
Denver	3	0	.815	294	129
Oakland	4	0	.728	244	303

NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	.923	301	125
N.Y. Giants	2	0	.869	296	127
Dallas	3	0	.815	294	129
San Francisco	4	0	.769	245	171
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
Atlanta	1	0	.769	245	171
Carolina	2	0	.682	239	187
New Orleans	3	0	.402	200	257
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
Green Bay	1	0	.615	314	133
Minnesota	2	0	.538	280	155
Detroit	3	0	.471	247	185
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
	East	L	Pct	PP	PA
Seattle	1	0	.538	305	135
St. Louis	2	0	.471	247	185
San Francisco	3	0	.402	200	257

**Sunday's games**  
 Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets  
 Washington at San Francisco  
 Denver at Atlanta  
 Houston at Chicago  
 Minnesota at Detroit  
 Seattle at San Francisco  
 Baltimore at Indianapolis  
 Monday's games  
 Green Bay at Minnesota  
 Oakland at Kansas City  
 Chicago at Detroit  
 San Diego at Indianapolis  
 Baltimore at Pittsburgh  
 Dallas at Jacksonville  
 New Orleans at New Orleans  
 N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati  
 Buffalo at San Francisco  
 New England at N.Y. Jets  
 Washington at Dallas  
 Carolina at Tampa Bay

Cleveland at Miami  
 Philadelphia at St. Louis  
 Cleveland at Miami  
 Philadelphia at St. Louis

## College football

## Division I-A playoffs

**Friday, Dec. 18**  
 At Tntex Field, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Chattanooga, Tenn.  
 James Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-2)

## Division III playoffs

**Stagip Stadium, Dec. 18**  
 At Salem, Mass.  
 Holy Martin-Baylor (11-1) vs. Linfield, Ore. (12-0)

## NAIA playoffs

**Championship**  
 Saturday, Dec. 19  
 At Jim Carroll Center  
 Hardin County, Tenn.  
 St. Francis, Ind. (13-0) vs. Carroll, Mont. (11-2)

## Bowl glance

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**  
 New Orleans Bowl  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Southern Mississippi vs. North Texas  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
 College Football Bowl  
 At Orlando, Fla.  
 Payoff: \$500,000  
 Georgia Tech (5-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5)  
**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
 GMAF Bowl  
 Mobile, Ala.  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Memphis (8-5) vs. Virginia (8-3)  
**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Michigan (6-5)  
 Las Vegas Bowl  
 Payoff: \$575,000  
 Wyoming (6-5) vs. UCLA (6-5)  
**Friday, Dec. 24**

Hawaii Bowl

At Honolulu

Payoff: \$750,000

UAB (7-4) vs. Utah (7-4)

**Monday, Dec. 27**

MPC Computers Bowl

At Boise, Idaho

Payoff: \$750,000

Fresno State (5-5) vs. Virginia (8-3)

**Monday, Dec. 28**

Midstate Bowl

At Chicago, Ill.

Payoff: \$750,000

At Shevport, La.

Payoff: \$1.2 million

Iowa State (6-5) vs. Miami (Ohio) (8-4)

**Tuesday, Dec. 29**

Payoff: \$750,000

At Phoenix

Payoff: \$750,000

Oregon State (5-5) vs. Notre Dame (6-5)

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**

Houston Bowl

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Texas at Paso (8-5) vs. Colorado (7-4)

**Thursday, Dec. 30**

At San Antonio

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Ohio State (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State (7-4)

**Friday, Dec. 31**

Continental Tire Bowl

At Charlotte, N.C.

Payoff: \$750,000

Boston College (10-0) vs. North Carolina (6-5)

**Emerald Bowl**

At San Francisco

Payoff: \$750,000

New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)

**At San Diego**

Payoff: \$750,000

California (10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)

**San Diego Valley Classic**

At San Jose, Calif.

Payoff: \$750,000

Troy (7-4) vs. Wake Forest (6-5)

**Friday, Dec. 31**

At Nashville, Tenn.

Payoff: \$750,000

Alabama (6-5) vs. Mississippi (6-5)

**At El Paso, Texas**

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Purdue (7-4) vs. Arizona State (8-3)

**At Memphis, Tenn.**

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (10-1)

**Peach Bowl**  
 At Atlanta  
 Payoff: \$2.2 million  
 Miami (8-3) vs. Virginia Tech (7-4)  
**Saturday, Dec. 19**

Cotton Bowl

At Dallas, Texas

Payoff: \$3 million

Tennessee (6-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-4)

**Outback Bowl**

At Tampa, Fla.

Payoff: \$2.75 million

Wisconsin (9-2) vs. West Virginia (9-2)

**Gator Bowl**

At Jacksonville, Fla.

Payoff: \$1.6 million

Florida State (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-3)

**Capital One Bowl**

At Washington, D.C.

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Iowa (9-3) vs. Ohio State (8-3)

**Rose Bowl**

At Pasadena, Calif.

Payoff: \$14.5 million

Michigan (9-3) vs. USC (10-0)

**Fiesta Bowl**

At Tempe, Ariz.

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (10-2)

**Monday, Jan. 3**

Super Bowl XXXIV

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Auburn (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2)

**At Miami**

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)

**Griffin Classic**

At San Francisco

Payoff: \$1.1 million

North vs. South

**At San Francisco**

Payoff: \$1.1 million

East vs. West

**Saturday, Jan. 22**

Hula Bowl

At Maui, Hawaii

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Aloha vs. Kal

**Saturday, Jan. 29**

At Mobile, Ala.

Payoff: \$1.1 million

North vs. South

## College basketball

## AP Men's Top 25 schedule

**Saturday's games**  
 No. 2 Kansas vs. South Carolina  
 No. 3 Georgia Tech vs. No. 22 Gonzaga at the Thomas & Mack Center  
 No. 4 Wake Forest vs. No. 10 Texas  
 No. 5 Duke vs. No. 13 Texas A&M at Madison Square Garden  
 No. 6 Kentucky at No. 12 Louisville  
 No. 7 Duke vs. No. 13 Louisville  
 No. 15 Arizona at Marquette  
 No. 17 Alabama vs. Tennessee State  
 No. 18 Mississippi State vs. Towson  
 No. 20 Mississippi State at Xavier  
 No. 21 Missouri vs. North Carolina State  
 No. 25 Cincinnati vs. Northwestern State  
 No. 1 Illinois vs. Villanova  
 No. 22 Virginia Tech vs. Duke  
 No. 11 Connecticut vs. Baylor  
 No. 14 Wake Forest vs. No. 18 Washington  
 No. 23 Maryland vs. Florida State

## Thursday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Catawba 81, Bluefield 57  
 Mount Vernon Nazarene 85, Roberts Wesleyan 73  
**SOUTH**  
 Clark of Charleston 53, N.C.-Wilmington 57  
 Belts 58, Belknap 44  
 Florida Southern 60, Florida Memorial 72  
 Lexington 73, U.S.-Upstate 74  
 Lincoln 70, William Joseph 65  
 Nicholls 52, Campbell 76  
 U.S.-Upstate 74, Campbell 76

**MIDWEST**  
 Augustana 82, St. Mary's 76  
 Columbia, Mo. 79, Maryville, Mo. 66  
 St. Joseph 70, St. Mary's 61  
 Graceland 61, Franklin 44  
 South Dakota 88, Morrisville 78  
 St. Mary's 70, Northwest 61  
 U.S.-Upstate 74, Campbell 76

**SOUTHWEST**  
 Arkansas 82, Louisiana-Lafayette 68  
 Austin 67, Texas Lutheran 56  
 Houston Baptist 88, SW Assemblies of God 37  
 Lamar 62, Prairie View 50  
 Texas Tech 78, Texas State 54  
 Texas-Pan American 82, Texas-Perman 80

**PACIFIC**  
 Arizona 96, USC Santa Barbara 83  
 Nevada 52, Hawaii 55  
 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 75, Nevada 52

**BASEBALL**  
 Remaining free agents  
 NEW YORK (AP) - The 13 remaining free agents (as offered arbitration and may negotiate with their former teams) are: **AL** - Mike Anderson (1B), Doug Mientkiewicz (2B), Jeff Bagwell (3B), Jason Varitek (C), and Tim Lincecum (P). **NATIONAL LEAGUE** - Tim Lincecum (P), Jason Varitek (C), and Tim Lincecum (P).

**BALTIMORE (AP)** - Marty Cordova, of the Baltimore Orioles, was named manager of the Baltimore Orioles.

**CHICAGO (AP)** - Roberto Alomar, St. Magg's manager, was named manager of the Chicago Cubs.

**CLEVELAND (AP)** - Rick White, of the Cleveland Indians, was named manager of the Cleveland Indians.

**FAST WEST**  
 Portland 82, Bethune-Cookman 60

## AP Women's Top 25 ranked

**Thursday**  
 LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: at Southwest Missouri State, Saturday.  
 Texas (9-0) did not play. Next: at Missouri State, Saturday.

**Friday**  
 Baylor (8-1) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Saturday.  
 Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: at Texas A&M, Saturday.  
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**DETROIT (AP)** - Alan Levine, of the Detroit Tigers, was named manager of the Detroit Tigers.

**KANSAS CITY (AP)** - Juan Gonzalez, of the Kansas City Royals, was named manager of the Kansas City Royals.

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Miguel Cairo, of the New York Yankees, was named manager of the New York Yankees.

**SEATTLE (AP)** - Edgar Martinez, of the Seattle Mariners, was named manager of the Seattle Mariners.

**TEXAS (AP)** - David Bellucci, of the Texas Rangers, was named manager of the Texas Rangers.

**ATLANTA (AP)** - Carlos Beltran, of the Atlanta Braves, was named manager of the Atlanta Braves.

**ARIZONA (AP)** - Carlos Beltran, of the Arizona Diamondbacks, was named manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

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# Union blasts owners' response to its salary rollback proposal

By IKA PODELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL players' association is taking its case public.

Annoyed and dismayed by financial figures they call "absolutely ridiculous," NHLPA officials sought to discredit projections that the NHL made when it rejected the union's proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The NHL lockout reached its 93rd day Friday and has wiped out 430 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star Game.

Negotiations broke off Tuesday after the NHL rejected a players' proposal that featured a 24-percent salary rollback. The league handed back a salary cap-structured counteroffer that also was turned down during the 3½-hour meeting in Toronto.

"They basped their reaction to our significant proposal by saying they'd be right back where they were. Well, that's a bunch of hogwash," union head Bob Goodenow said. They mixed up and diced up statistics in a blender and came out with what I think are absolutely ridiculous forecasts."

No new negotiations are scheduled, leaving the NHL perilously close to becoming the first North American sports league to lose a season to a labor dispute.

"It is a lockout that's going to extend for an awful long time if the parties aren't able to try to work together," Goodenow said.

Although no drop-dead date has been set, there figures to be about a month of negotiating time left to save the season. The lockout during the 1994-95 season ended on Jan. 11 and allowed for a 48-game regular season to be played.

The players' association al-

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**Bob Goodenow**  
NHLPA chief

ready believed that the NHL's financial figures were off when they saw them in the counterproposal. After a few days of crunching numbers, the union made sure to let everyone know just how wrong it feels the amounts are.

Using a 3-year projection based on league numbers, the NHLPA said its offer would produce a \$275.5 million profit for teams as opposed to a \$568.5 million loss, as stated by the NHL.

"They were desperate to mischaracterize things and try to throw a high, hard one past a lot of people," Goodenow said. "That's why we've taken the time to go back and restate reality." The NHL countered that projected league revenues would go up 3 percent annually over the next three seasons while player costs would rise by an average of 12.1 percent.

By its calculations, the league costs, which were experienced during a time of rapid revenue growth in the '90s, and then ignore the revenue number from that same time period.

Goodenow said the league took

its own forecast of 2004-05 revenue and increased that amount by only 3 percent, a figure far below the NHL's self-reported number of 9.4 — the amount of average growth the NHL said it had the last 10 years.

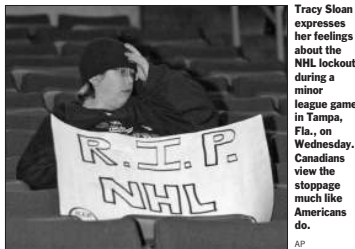
"We stand behind the 3-percent average annual growth projection we used for our modeling, particularly for a business that will be coming out of an extended shutdown," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said Thursday. "We do not believe the union's public negotiation with the media warrants any further comment."

In plugging those numbers in, the NHLPA claimed its latest proposal would generate a profit of \$58 million in the 2004-05 season, and \$91.5 million and \$126 million in subsequent years.

"We are not saying that revenues will grow by 9.4 percent in the next few years," Goodenow said. We believe the numbers from the last five-year, post-expansion era have far greater relevance. According to the league's own numbers, over the last five years on a per team basis revenues have on average increased 7.8 percent while player costs have increased an average of 7.3 percent."

In using those figures, Goodenow said a \$411.9 million profit would be produced instead of a \$568.5 million loss — a difference of \$980.4 million from the league's projections.

"All we're saying is you have to compare apples with apples," NHLPA senior director Ted Sackin said. "Don't take a plug number of 12.1 percent in player costs, which were experienced during a time of rapid revenue growth in the '90s, and then ignore the revenue number from that same time period."



Tracy Sloan expresses her feelings about the NHL lockout during a minor league game in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday. Canadians view the stoppage much like Americans do.

## North of the border, more indifference

By DAVID POLLAK  
San Jose Mercury News

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — It was supposed to be different up here.

But three months into an NHL lockout poised to erase an entire season, Canada is not having an emotional meltdown. The Great White North is reacting much more like the United States than expected.

Oh, fans are angry in September when players and owners made it clear they were living on different economic planets and the league shut down.

But now?

"I thought it'd be rougher than it's turned out to be," said Tom O'Brien, 39.

"We miss it, but life goes on," said Jamie Palmer, 27, who still plays the game and, as a spectator, has found alternatives to the NHL's Canucks.

All of which is bad news for players in the labor dispute. Nor can either party be happy with the results of a Vancouver Province online survey 10 days ago that asked readers if it mattered whether the NHL salvages the rest of its season. Seventy-seven percent said no.

In Canada? Where TV ads for Molson's feature burly men singing the lyrics of Boy George — "Do you really want to hurt me? Do you really want to make me cry?" — in lockout lamers.

Where are the withdrawal symptoms? Where is the rage?

"We're holding up surprisingly well," said Dan Russell, a CKNW sports talk radio host whose Vancouver-based program is aired throughout British Columbia. "I'm surprised at how few late callers we get."

It's not as if the media isn't playing every angle. It was front-page news Dec. 3 when players invited owners to resume negotiations. Sportswriters have toured Europe, tracking NHL skaters in the Columbus Jackets have called for heads to roll.

Polls in Canada show more support for owners, though the margin is still slimming.

"The first two months of the lockout, 80 to 90 percent of the callers were on the owners' side," said Russell, whose program is marking its 20th anniversary. "But I sense the pendulum has moved back toward the middle."

His audience wasn't optimistic that the players' offer last week to take a 24-percent pay cut would lead to a settlement. So it took

Russell's Gary Bettman's rejection of it Tuesday in stride.

The mood may vary from province to province — "People in B.C. aren't nervous about locking hockey long term, but I think it's on their minds in Alberta," Russell said — but he indicated the lack of hysteria appeared to be nationwide.

Still, locked-out players say they can get an earful when they're home in Canada. And, Sharf forward Al MacIsaac says, it's not surprising, considering people grew up playing hockey and harbored dreams of stardom.

"Up here, a lot of people feel, 'I just made that pass in peewee, I'd be in the NHL today,'" said McCauley, who has spent the past few months at his Canadian hometown home. There is that mentality that they could be out there doing the same thing we do."

But there are theories why Canadians are handling this lockout better than the one in 1994. The Red Sox's run to the World Series captivated the country's sports fans through October. In November, Toronto and Vancouver played for the Canadian Football League title, keeping interest alive in two of the nation's three biggest cities.

"People are also savvy enough to know the economic circumstances of the lockout," Russell said. "People realize it's a tough nut to crack."

Soon enough, the big picture comes into focus: Canians are surviving the lockout because there's still plenty of hockey north of the 49th Parallel. The game hasn't vanished — just the Canucks, Toronto and Vancouver franchises with the priciest tickets.

"We've got our own hockey to play," said Palmer, who skates in a men's league that got a good laugh one night this fall when Sharks defenseman Scott Hannan, looking to stay active, showed up to play.

"And," he added, "we've got this."

Palmer is at a Vancouver Giants game. Like many fans, he has turned his attention to the major junior hockey leagues whose 56 teams from coast-to-coast are the NHL's primary feeder system.

Competing in the Western Hockey League, the Seattle Seawolves' ticket base grew from 2,600 to 4,500 this season. The team has been averaging crowds of 7,473 — about a 68 percent increase over last season. And the electric billboard outside the Pacific Coliseum, home of the NHL's Canucks since 1995, drives more contrast between the two teams: Game on, guaranteed.

## Miller fourth in World Cup super-G

The Associated Press

VAL GARDENA, Italy — Bode Miller finished fourth in a World Cup super giant slalom Friday in which Michael Walchhofer led a 1-2-3 Austrian sweep.

Miller has won six of 11 races this season and holds a commanding lead in the overall standings. Walchhofer captured a World Cup super-G for the first time, covering the 1.5-mile course in 1 minute, 31.17 seconds. Defending overall champion Hermann Maier was second, 0.12 seconds behind, and Benjamin Raich finished third, 0.47 seconds back. Miller was 0.86 second off Walchhofer's pace.

This was the first speed event this season in which Maier has finished ahead of Miller, shaving 30 points off the American's overall lead. Miller leads Maier 780-419.

Two-time defending champion Antoine Deneriaz of France finished 15th.

Walchhofer was second in the downhill on this course in each of the past three seasons. This was the third World Cup victory of his career following a combined in Kitzbuehel during the 2002-03 season and a downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta.

### Monty races himself out for Euro captaincy

LONDON — Colin Montgomerie is no longer interested in becoming Europe's Ryder Cup captain.



Bode Miller, has won six of 11 races and leads the overall World Cup standings by 361 points.

Montgomerie, who made the winning putt in Europe's victory over the United States in September at Oakland Hills, said Friday he's withdrawing as a candidate to captain the team in 2006 at the K Club in Ireland.

The 31-year-old Scot said he's been told by "everybody" that he should keep playing.

"After hearing it I possibly have to agree," he said. "I think I can play in Ireland and possibly the next couple."

Germany's Bernhard Langer captained the team which beat the Americans by a record margin of 18½-9½. Montgomerie, who has a Ryder Cup record of 19-8-5, backs Langer to continue as captain.



# Pats' Vinatieri all but automatic

## New England kicker has won two Super Bowls, made 21 straight field goal attempts

By Howard Lippman

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The only way to stop Adam Vinatieri from making field goals might be to keep him from kicking them.

And that approach doesn't work either because the New England Patriots score touchdowns instead.

The kicker whose field goals won two Super Bowls has failed just once in 29 attempts this season and that came from 47 yards. He hasn't tried one in the last two games, but the Patriots won both — 42-15 in Cleveland and 35-28 against Cincinnati.

"It's nice to be on the field as often as possible," Vinatieri said Thursday. "And if they're all extra points, I'm happy with that, as long as we're winning."

It's just not as exciting as when the cool Vinatieri lines up — in bright sun or snow-filled gloom, under a roof or a cloudless sky — and drives field goals between the uprights in the biggest games. "It's a guy that we count on for a lot of stuff no matter what the temperature is, what the field condition is," offensive tackle Matt Light said.

"It's ridiculous the stuff this guy kicks in and he's unfazed by it."

In the AFC divisional playoffs against the Oakland Raiders on Jan. 19, 2002, Vinatieri kicked a



New England Patriots' Adam Vinatieri, right, celebrates his game-winning field goal with teammates Ken Walter (13) and Christian Fauria (88) in the final seconds of Super Bowl XXXVIII at Reliant Stadium in Houston, on this Feb. 1, 2004. The Patriots beat the Panthers 32-29. Vinatieri also made the game-winning kick in Super Bowl XXXVI.

45-yard field goal through falling flakes to force overtime and a 23-yarder to win 16-13. Two weeks later, in the Superdome in New Orleans, his 48-yarder on the last play gave the Patriots a

20-17 Super Bowl victory over the St. Louis Rams.

In last season's playoffs, he went 5-for-5 in a 24-14 victory over Indianapolis, then broke a tie against Tennessee with 4:06

left with a 46-yarder that gave the Patriots a 17-14 win. In the Super Bowl, his 41-yard kick with 4 seconds left gave New England a 32-29 victory over Carolina.

"He's come up with some dandies," Light said. "It doesn't matter really where we are on the field. If they're sending him out there, I feel confident."

Now the nine-year veteran, whose kickoffs also have improved, feels much better physically after dealing with back problems last season when he went 25-for-34 and 7-for-10 in the postseason.

The difference "is night and day," he said. "The body feels great and I've been having a fairly decent year because of it."

How about fairly amazing? Vinatieri made his first seven field-goal attempts before missing on his second kick of the game on Oct. 19 in a 24-10 victory over Miami, where New England plays on Monday night.

Since then, he's made 21 straight — four short of the team record he set in 1996-97 — although none have been game-winners because the Patriots (12-1) have been so dominant. He hasn't tried a field goal since he went 3-for-3 on a rainy Oct. 28 in a 24-3 win over Baltimore but he still leads the NFL in scoring.

"He has made some tough kicks," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "The Baltimore

game was a pretty tough kicking situation. We have seen him make them in the past."

He could start making them again Monday night if the offense stalls. One of them actually might win a game, a feat he's accomplished nine times the past three seasons. Four of them came in the Patriots' six playoff games.

"The Dolphins play real good defense, so you never know," Vinatieri said. "You might be on the field kicking a lot of field goals. So you always have to be prepared. You never know when your time will be called."

Mike Vanderjag of Indianapolis went 3-for-3 last season, the best single-season performance in NFL history. Olindo Mare, who will kick for Miami on Monday night, holds the league record of 39 total field goals in a season.

Vinatieri needs a big finish to challenge that.

"He's one of the best kickers in the league," Patriots tight end Christian Fauria said. "Our ideal is not to have him out there that much anyway. We like to score touchdowns."

But if the Patriots fall short, Vinatieri probably won't. "The confidence level has been pretty good," he said. "Some years you get five or six game-winners and other times you go a whole year without maybe any. But we still have three games left and the postseason."

# William & Mary quarterback Campbell wins Payton Award

The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell won the Walter Payton Award on Thursday night as the top offensive player in Division I-AA.

Campbell received 40 first-place votes and 315 points from a panel of Division I-AA sports information directors and media.

Sam Houston State quarterback Dustin Long finished second with 17 first-place votes and 185 points. Appalachian State wide receiver DeVon Fowles finished third with eight first-place votes and 151 points.

Campbell, the Atlantic 10 offensive player of the year, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns, with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

He led William & Mary to a share of the Atlantic 10 title with a 9-2 regular season record, but the Tribe lost to James Madison in the semifinals of the Division I-AA tournament.

James Madison plays Montana for the Division I-AA championship Friday in Chattanooga.

Meanwhile, Southern Illinois coach Jerry Kill won the Eddie Robinson Award as the I-AA coach of the year. In his fourth season, Kill led the Salukis to a

**College football briefs**  
10-2 record and a Gateway Conference championship, posting a perfect 7-0 league mark.

Cal Poly linebacker Jordan Beck won the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in I-AA. The 6-foot-2, 231-pound senior finished the season with 15 tackles, 18.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks and six forced fumbles.

**Former Nebraska coach Solich hired by Ohio University**

ATHENS, Ohio — Former Nebraska coach Frank Solich was introduced as Ohio's new football coach Thursday, returning to the state where he grew up and promising to rebuild a program that has gone 11-35 over the past four seasons.

"It's great to be back in the game, and it's great to be back in the game at Ohio University," said Solich, who has been out of football since being fired at Nebraska a year ago after going 58-19 over six seasons.

Solich signed a multiyear deal with a base salary of \$240,000.

Solich had replaced Tom Osborne, who retired from Nebraska in 1997 after winning three national championships in four seasons.

Osborne, now a U.S. congress-



William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell, who was recognized as the top offensive player in Division I-AA on Thursday night, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns, with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

man, was 49-2 in those final four seasons, leaving Solich with an almost impossible task of maintaining that success.

Solich, an assistant under Osborne from 1979-97, led the Cornhuskers to the national championship game in the 2002 Rose Bowl, where they lost 37-14 to Miami.

Nebraska was only 7-7 the next year, the school's first non-winning season since 1961. Solich was dismissed the next season despite going 9-3. Assistant Bo Pel-

li then coached the Cornhuskers to a 17-3 win over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl.

Solich's name has been mentioned for openings at more well-known schools, but he cited the enthusiasm by university officials, his familiarity with Ohio and the success of the Mid-American Conference as reasons why he accepted the job.

"It's obvious to me ... that the MAC conference produces some great football teams and great football players," he said.

Solich takes over a program that went including 4-7 this year under coach Brian Krieger, who was fired Nov. 18. The Bobcats have had only two winning seasons since 1982.

**Mississippi State extends Croom's contract through '08**

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Sylvester Croom is under contract with Mississippi State through 2008.

Croom, the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history, agreed to a one-year extension, the school announced Wednesday.

Croom signed a four-year deal when he was hired last December.

The Bulldogs finished 3-8 this season, 2-6 in the SEC. An upset of then-national ranked Florida was the high point of Croom's first season.

A year ago, Croom inherited a

Mississippi State program in the midst of an NCAA investigation for recruiting violations between 1998 and 2002.

The NCAA placed the Bulldogs' program on probation for four years, stripped it of eight scholarships over two years and banned Mississippi State from this postseason.

Athletic director Larry Templeton said that for every year the program is under sanctions, Croom will receive an extra year on top of the state-maximum four-year contract he signed 12 months ago.

That verbal agreement would keep him under contract through the 2011 season.

**No charges filed against Cal receiver David Gray**

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Police Department decided to drop weapons charges against California receiver David Gray, who was arrested last week after a fight outside a nightclub.

"We're pleased that when the police looked further into the incident, they chose to discharge David's case," Golden Bears coach Jeff Tedford said Thursday. "From what we knew of the circumstances, that's the outcome we always had expected. Hopefully now, David and the team can put this unpleasant experience behind us."

# On second thought ...

## Giants mortgaged the future to get Manning while letting Steelers steal Roethlisberger

BY TOM CANAVAN  
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Some eight months ago, the New York Giants were patting themselves on the back after engineering a draft-day trade to get Eli Manning.

No one seemed to care that the Giants had mortgaged the franchise in the deal with San Diego for the No. 1 overall pick.

"I think it's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get somebody you feel that strongly about," general manager Ernie Accorsi said after sending the rights to quarterback Philip Rivers (the fourth pick overall), a first-round pick next year and two other draft choices to the Chargers for the rights to Manning.

It was a deal everyone liked. New coach Tom Coughlin and the Giants supposedly got a great quarterback for the future. Manning also got his wish, which was not to play for the Chargers.

The other offshoot was that it left Ben Roethlisberger on the board and allowed the Pittsburgh Steelers to take him with the 11th choice overall.

With the NFL regular season winding down, the deal of the century isn't looking very good, especially with Manning and the Giants (5-8) preparing to meet Roethlisberger and the Steelers (12-1) at Giants Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The Giants have lost six games in a row and seven of eight in seeing their once promising playoff hopes take a nosedive. They could be eliminated this weekend with a loss and victories by two of three teams (Minnesota, Carolina, St. Louis).

Manning, who replaced two-time MVP Kurt Warner at quarterback after the MVP crash of the season, is winless in four starts. His last two starts have been pathetic. The brother of NFL co-MVP Peyton Manning of Indianapolis has hit 16 of 43 passes for 140 yards with two interceptions. He has led New York to two touchdowns and 44 offensive series since becoming a starter.

The story is much more positive in Pittsburgh and San Diego.

Roethlisberger has not lost a game since becoming the starter on Sept. 26 against Miami.

Pittsburgh's current 11-game winning streak is one shy of a team record. A 13-1 record would be the Steelers' best. It would also move Bill Cowher's team closer to a first-round playoff bye.

The Chargers (10-3) have been one of the NFL's biggest surprises.

With Manning not waiting in the wings, San Diego quarterback Drew Brees has responded with 23 touchdown passes and a 102.7 quarterback rating, which is second in the AFC behind Peyton Manning and just ahead of Roethlisberger's 97.6.

Roethlisberger, who many thought would be taken by the Giants on draft day, has had the benefit of playing for a team that has an outstanding offensive line, two strong running backs, three good receivers and one of the league's top-ranked defenses.

Manning has played behind a weak offensive line, with banged-up receivers, an underutilized weapon in tight end Jeremy Shockey and an overused halfback in Tiki Barber. The combination helps explain his 33.8 quarterback rating, the lowest among passers with 100 attempts.

In 20:20 hindsight, it might be worth asking: Did the Giants make the wrong move eight months ago? Coughlin said his opinion of Manning has not changed one iota.

Roethlisberger gave a cryptic answer when asked if the draft order of quarterbacks might be different now.

"I don't know," said Roethlisberger, who is 164-for-248 for 2,084 yards and 14 touchdowns, with eight interceptions. "You'd have to ask Eli if he'd go to San Diego or not."

Manning is smart enough not to second-guess himself, or his family, which is headed by former New Orleans Saints quarterback Archie Manning. They advised him to spend the season in Pittsburgh.

The young man Manning knows winning is what determines the value of a quarterback. Roethlisberger is doing that now, and Manning isn't.



New York Giants rookie quarterback Eli Manning is flattened during a loss to Philadelphia.

"You have to try to take care of yourself, and right now, I am just trying to get better and trying to improve this offense and make plays when they are there," Manning said. "That is my concern right now and that is what I am trying to deal with."

Manning's recent problems have been compounded playing against three of the league's top defenses, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore. Going against the Steelers will be the latest test in his professional education.

"I think Eli is going to be a very good quarterback in this league from what I see," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "I think that if you give the kid time and give him some experience, I don't think there's any question that he is going to have success in this league."

# Redskins, 49ers are teams on the slide

BY GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A few days ago, coach Dennis Erickson honestly didn't know whether he would be on the San Francisco 49ers' sideline this weekend.

Usually, he spends game days only wishing he was someplace else.

It's hard to say how Erickson's flirtation with Mississippi affected the 49ers in their preparations for Saturday's game against the Washington Redskins, but Erickson must have figured it couldn't make their 2-11 season much worse.

San Francisco's undermanned roster has been beset by injuries and infighting, and Erickson's interview with Ole Miss on Tuesday night was just the latest in a long list of distractions for players and coaches.

"I just felt that it (Mississippi) wasn't the right situation for me," Erickson said. "I feel like I want to finish this thing, if I have that opportunity, I would like to see what we decide we're going to do when it is all over with at the end of the season."

The 49ers' problems at least one victory in their final three games to avoid matching the worst record in franchise history. That might be difficult to get, even against the low-scoring Redskins (4-9), though this season has been nearly as disappointing.

There are plenty of similarities in the clubs' struggles this season: bad offenses, poor discipline, injuries and rosters somewhat ill-fitted to the coaching staff's desires.

There's also one big difference: With owner Dan Snyder and coach Joe Gibbs' charge in Washington, at least the Redskins have the deep pockets and savvy leadership on the field to give their fans some hope — unless you believe Gibbs' own assessment of his first year back in charge.

"I have no clue. I don't have an idea," Gibbs said when asked if he could restore the Redskins' glory days. "I'd like to do something good for the franchise and help the franchise get back to winning football games, but there are no gives in this sport. I might go through a lot of lumps and a lot of adversity."

Further polishing his Lou Holtz impersonation, Gibbs also said of the woeful 49ers: "I watch them on film, and I think they are certainly a team that can easily, easily be a team."

It's safe to say Washington fans have more confidence in their leadership than do the West Coast faithful watching the Niners' steady decline under the stewardship of owner John York, who now seems to be searching for a cost-effective way to make Erickson into the fall guy for the under-achieving team.

# Carolina looks to turn tide vs. Atlanta

BY CHARLES ODOM  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — For a team still below .500 this season and woefully below .500 in its series with division rival Atlanta, the Carolina Panthers bring substantial momentum and confidence to the Georgia Dome for Saturday night's game.

The Falcons have won 11 of the last 13 games in the series and hold an overall 13-6 lead in the series, including a 27-10 victory in Charlotte on Oct. 3. The Falcons are looking for their fifth sweep in seven years.

"Every team has somebody that they struggle with," Carolina defensive coordinator Mike Tryon said. "Until we put this Atlanta thing to rest, everyone is going to talk about that to us."

The Panthers are painfully aware they have only one victory in nine visits to Atlanta, but they are bolstered by a five-game winning streak. At 6-7, they are back in the NFL wild-card race.

Carolina coach John Fox found one way to put a positive spin on

the team's poor history at the Georgia Dome.

"I know we're undefeated there on Saturday night," Fox said.

The Falcons (10-3) clinched the NFC South title with last week's 35-10 victory over Oakland, but coach Jim Mora refused to concede Carolina has more at stake.

"No, heck no, we've got a ton riding on this game," Mora said. "They're trying to get in the playoffs. We're trying to get a first-round bye. We're both fighting and kicking and scratching. This game is very important to both teams, and we both realize that."

"If you said that both teams were 3-10, it would still be a battle out there. It's two teams that I think really enjoy playing against each other. There's a little something to it, and it's a national TV game. Night games are always a little bit different."

The Falcons will look different on offense. They will be without starting fullback Justin Griffith and the rest of the offense without backup tailback T.J. Duckett for at least one week.

Duckett had arthroscopic knee surgery Tuesday after scoring a team-record four TDs against Oakland. Griffith broke an ankle in the game.

The Falcons signed veteran Fred McCrary as the backup to new starting fullback Stanley Pritchett, who already had one start in a fill-in role this year. Rookie tailback Jason White was promoted from the practice squad to play behind starter Warren Sapp.

With all the focus on the Falcons' running backs this week, it has not escaped Carolina's attention that quarterback Michael Vick is Atlanta's leading rusher.

"Their running game, even though they're going to miss one big part of it, they still have two major parts of it who can get it done," Carolina defensive tackle Michael Vick's Atlanta's leading rusher.

"It's a three-headed monster they have. Even though Duckett plays a big part of what they like to do, they'll miss him, you can't take nothing away from Dunn. Even though he's small in stature, he

can't stand it up in there and he's got the speed to take it the distance."

Vick has 821 yards rushing. Dunn has 788 and seven touchdowns.

Carolina defensive end Mike Rucker said momentum generated by the Panthers' winning streak will overshadow the lack of success against the Falcons.

"Different times, different teams, different situations," Rucker said. "This is a unique situation where we're going and the way they are. It's going to be a great challenge. ... They're a good football team and we're going down there with some confidence."

While Vick gives Atlanta a quarterback with unusual skills, Mora says he worries about Carolina's 6-foot-6, 283-pound defensive end Julius Peppers lining up at wide receiver.

"He's so unique because he's so tall and so strong and so athletic," Mora said. "I'm just hoping they don't put him out there. But if they do, we've got a plan and we try to get a bigger guy out there who's athletic."





# Beltre, Mariners reach 5-year, \$64M deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Prized free agent Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal Thursday, The Associated Press learned.

Beltre's contract is subject to him passing a physical, a person close to the third baseman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The deal could be announced as early as Friday. Seattle did not comment on the agreement.

A day earlier, the Mariners added another slugger by finalizing a \$50 million, four-year contract with free-agent first baseman Richie Sexson.

Seattle finished a distant last in the AL West, going 63-99 for their worst record since 1983. The Mariners were last in the league with only 136 homers and 698 runs.

Beltre, 25, led the majors with 48 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He hit .334 with 121 RBIs, and finished second behind Barry Bonds in the NL MVP voting.

Beltre also improved on defense last season, committing only 10 errors.

The Dodgers wanted to keep Beltre and offered him salary arbitration. But Los Angeles recently gave itself some protection, signing free-agent Jeff Kent and saying that he could play third base, along with his usual spot at second.

"We're disappointed. It hurts," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said. "Obviously, we would have loved to have him back."

"I think all of us knew this certainly was a possibility. We feel like we stepped up and made a very competitive offer, actually tried to make it a compelling one by offering a sixth guaranteed year. Unfortunately for us, Adrian decided to go elsewhere."

Beltre made \$5 million last sea-



Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners reportedly agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal on Thursday. Beltre must pass a physical first.

son, and figured to cash in after a career year in which he led the Dodgers to the NL West division title and their first postseason spot since 1988.

DePodesta said the Dodgers' six-year offer to Beltre and agent Scott Boras included an option for a seventh season.

When asked if the Dodgers were given a final say in the matter, DePodesta said: "Not in so many words. They didn't come back and say if you can do this, he's coming back."

"Scott did have a sense of urgency, we did try to step up to that. That really wasn't the forum. But then again, I'm not blaming Scott for that, either. Everything he did in this process was above board. There's no villain here," he said. "At the end of the day, Seattle

stepped up and made a great offer. We had multiple meetings, face-to-face meetings."

Beltre became a free agent after the season, filing on the same day he had arthroscopic surgery to remove two large bone spurs from his left ankle.

Beltre made his major league debut in 1998 at 19. He had posted career highs of 23 home runs, 85 RBIs and a .290 batting average before breaking loose this season.

## Acce Hudson traded to Braves

OAKLAND, Calif. — Tim Hudson was traded from the Oakland Athletics to Atlanta, a blockbuster deal Thursday that further bolstered the Braves' revamped rotation.

Los Angeles, Boston and the

New York Yankees were rumored to be pursuing Hudson, but the Braves swooped in and got the Oakland ace for outfielder Charles Thomas and pitchers Juan Cruz and Dan Meyer.

With the A's facing yet another payroll crunch, general manager Billy Beane finally broke up his "Big Three" starting pitchers of Hudson, Mark Mulder and Barry Zito.

It was Atlanta's second big trade in a week. Last Saturday, the Braves acquired All-Star closer Dan Korb from Milwaukee — a move that allowed them to move John Smoltz back into the rotation.

Moments after the trade was announced, the Braves unveiled another deal — they sent outfielder Eli Marrero and cash to Kansas City for pitcher Jorge Vasquez.

The Georgia-born Hudson joins a team that has won 13 straight division titles. The 29-year-old righty posted 81 wins from 2000-04, tied for the most in the AL over that span. He is 92-39 with a 3.30 ERA lifetime.

Hudson was 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts this season. He made the All-Star team for the second time, but did not pitch because of a strained left side that put him on the disabled list for a month.

Vasquez, 26, also made his major league debut last season, pitching in two games for Kansas City. He spent most of the year at Triple-A Wichita, going 4-5 with a 4.68 ERA and 18 saves.

## Morales officially an Angel

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Highly touted Cuban prospect Kendry Morales is officially a member of the Anaheim Angels.

The Angels announced two weeks ago they had agreed to terms of a six-year contract with Morales, conditional upon the 21-year-old switch hitter receiving clearance from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

That came Thursday, when Mo-

rales received a license from the OFAC, clearing him to work in the United States. He defected from Cuba in June, and now lives in the Dominican Republic.

The Angels added Morales to their 40-man roster and designated right-hander Bobby Jenks for assignment. Jenks, the Angels' fifth-round pick in 2000, only made three appearances for Triple-A Salt Lake last year before being shut down in June with elbow problems.

Morales plays first base, third base and the outfield. He was the first baseman and cleanup hitter for Cuba at the 2003 World Cup in Havana, and his grand slam helped the Cubans beat Taiwan 6-3 in the finals.

The Angels were able to sign Morales because a Cuban player who acquires residency in a third country is eligible for free agent status.

## Santiago headed to Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH — Benito Santiago was traded Thursday by the Kansas City Royals to the Pittsburgh Pirates, who have sought a veteran catcher since dealing Jason Kendall to Oakland last month.

The Royals get right-handed prospect Leo Nunez for Santiago, but also must pay off \$1 million of Santiago's \$2.15 million salary in the second season of his two-year contract.

The deal with Pittsburgh was first discussed during last week-end's winter meetings in Anaheim, Calif., but wasn't completed until Santiago took a physical in Pittsburgh this week.

Santiago, a five-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner, hit .274 with six homers and 23 RBIs in 49 games in 2004, but didn't play after fracturing his left hand June 18 against Philadelphia.

The right-handed hitting Santiago is seventh in major league history with 1,911 games caught and will pass Al Lopez and Jim Sundberg if he catches at least 18 more games.

# Martinez: 'I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez says he told Red Sox manager he didn't want to be in the shadow of fellow ace Curt Schilling. He also hopes his new team, the New York Mets, will sign his former Boston battery-mate, Jason Varitek.

In an interview with the Boston Herald, Martinez criticized the negotiating tactics of Red Sox officials, saying he repeatedly got mixed signals from fellow president Larry Lucchino, owner John Henry and General Manager Theo Epstein, whom he called "arrogant."

Martinez signed a four-year, \$53 million contract with the Mets this week. He said he left the Red Sox after seven years partly because he didn't want to be second in the starting rotation behind Schilling, who was acquired last offseason and helped lead the team to its first World Series champion-



Martinez

ship in 86 years. "I told [Henry], 'You want to sign me, get it done. Please force them to get it done. I'm willing to stay here. Negotiate with them. I just don't want to be under Schilling,'" Martinez said.

He also said he deserved a better deal than Schilling. "Schilling is 38, I'm only 33," he said. "The fact that I had an off-year doesn't mean that I can be below Schilling. Still, with an off-year, I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher and I've pitched pretty much like Schilling the last few years, if you're going to talk about durability."

Red Sox officials did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Asked what other free agents he thought Boston would sign, Martinez said "they'll be stupid not to do Varitek. Varitek is the next one gone. The Sox's going to have the biggest problem with him."

Epstein has said signing Varitek is one of his offseason priorities. The catcher is reportedly seeking a five-year contract worth more than \$50 million, with a no-trade clause.

"I hope he is gone," Martinez said of Varitek. "I hope Tek is on my team."

Asked whether that meant he wanted to get rid of current Mets catcher Mike Piazza, Martinez said, "I do want Piazza, too. Piazza is a good hitter. We can move him to first or somewhere... I want Tek. Tek is a good player, a good catcher."

He also said Epstein and Lucchino "weren't getting along in negotiations. Lucchino would say one thing and Theo

would show up with another."

He said Epstein treated his agent, Fernando Cuza, poorly during negotiations.

"Theo got really arrogant on Fernando and I didn't appreciate it," Martinez said. "Theo believed that he had me and wasn't the nicest man communicating with Fernando."

He said Red Sox manager Terry Francona played little role in managing the team, taking his cues from the team's front office.

"Franco is subject to what they decide," Martinez said. "Franco had no idea, like he didn't have any say in managing the team. He was manipulated from upstairs."

Asked for evidence to back that assertion, he said, "I was in the clubhouse, that's how I know."

# Temple coach Chaney has staying power

Facing 1,000th game, he's still a fiery presence

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney barely had time to savor one of his earliest games back in 1972 when an indignant fan abruptly remarked he wasn't too happy to have the rookie coach around.

"I told him, 'Well, I'm going to be here for a long time so you better get used to me,'" Chaney recalled with a laugh.

Sure enough, Chaney is still raising hell on the sidelines 32 years after his college coaching debut with Division II Cheyney State in suburban Philadelphia. Chaney eventually moved on to Temple, but not much else has changed for the Hall of Famer.

From threatening opposing coaches to giving a earful in his loud, booming voice, to reaching out to another underprivileged kid, Chaney has remained steady as ever through 999 games.

Chaney still seems restless and cranky, and his nattily attire is usually in shambles after a game.



After 999 games, Temple coach John Chaney has lost none of his competitive fire. Above, he shares some with point guard Mardy Collins.

As Chaney approaches his 1,000th career game, he knows his time on Temple sideline is nearing an end. But don't go planning that retirement party just yet.

"I would like to stay as long as I can, as long as my health is good and as long as the kids keep listening to me," said Chaney, who turns 73 in January.

When Chaney (711-288) coach-

es Temple against Princeton on Monday, he will become the 19th Division I coach to reach 1,000 games and the fifth active one, joining Lou Henson, Bob Knight, Eddie Sutton, Lute Olson and Mike Krzyzewski.

"I think it's a number that's really kind of inconceivable to me," said Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli, who is in his 10th season. "Like a lot of things about

John Chaney, it's hard to put your hands around."

Chaney, whose deep, dark eyes seem fitting for a school whose mascot is an owl, was amazed he's lasted so long.

"I've never given it any thought," Chaney said. "It surprised me when they told me I accomplished 700 wins."

Chaney said that, although the games tend to run together, it's the people, the experiences and the stories that stand out.

"I can't remember all of their names, but sooner or later it comes back to me," he said.

Soon, Chaney is off on another story, this one about cooking eggs for his players at Cheyney State because a flu epidemic had them quarantined. When Chaney tells how the eggs turned a Dr. Suess-like green, he bursts into a fit of uncontrollable cackling.

Chaney dabbled as player-coach toward the end of his career in the Eastern Basketball League, then started full time at Philadelphia's Sayre Junior High (1963-66) and Simon Gratz High (1966-72).

When Cheyney State came calling in 1972, Chaney was torn.

Chaney, though, was convinced he could affect more lives on the college level. Chaney had more concerns when he considered the Temple vacancy in 1982.

"I was very apprehensive," he said. "I was happy with where I

was. I always believed that success comes when you're very happy with what you do."

Chaney had little to worry about after 10 seasons at Cheyney. He was 225-59 and won the NCAA Division II title in 1978 with the Wolves.

Chaney has experienced so much success that he has quite a list of prolific games to choose from for his most memorable.

His first game was a 68-58 loss to East Stroudsburg. His first victory came in the next game, on Dec. 5, 1972, an 82-67 defeat of Monmouth.

Chaney's favorite was Cheyney's 47-40 victory over Wisconsin-Green Bay in the 1978 Division II title game.

"Without question the national championship game at Cheyney in '78 stands out the most," he said. "And my first time here getting into the NCAA's stands out. How exciting it was for all the students."

After a losing record his first season at Temple, Chaney took the Owls to the NCAA tournament 17 times in 18 years. Before his arrival, the Owls had never played in consecutive tournaments.

Chaney has led the Owls 21 straight postseason appearances, including five appearances in the NCAA tournament regional finals (1988, 1991, 1993, 1999 and 2001).

Still, a Final Four berth remains the one void in his career.

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## SPORTS



Jets, Seahawks in  
need of win for shot  
at playoffs, Page 37

# Big pitch for Big Unit

## Yankees' deal would also involve Vazquez, Dodgers' Green

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After so many missed tries, the New York Yankees might really have a trade for Randy Johnson.

The Arizona ace was on the verge of joining the Yankees in a three-team megadeal that also includes Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez, sources told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Green would go from Los Angeles to Arizona, and Vazquez would move from the Yankees to the Dodgers in the trade that would put Johnson in Yankee pinstripes.

"It is going to happen," a source familiar with the negotiations said on the condition of anonymity. Another team source said the principals were in place for the trade to be completed.

There was no confirmation from any of the teams that a deal was finalized. And one source said it still could fall apart because so many players and clubs were involved.

Another element that could get in the way: With the Dodgers losing free agent Adrian Beltre to Seattle, they may not be so eager to trade away a power hitter.

Newsday and Fox Sports, which first reported the deal on their Web sites, said the other players were Dodgers pitchers Brad Penny and Yency Brazoban, and Yankees top prospects Eric Duncan and Dioner Navarro.

"We're still in conversations with a lot of different clubs about a lot of different possibilities," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said earlier in the day. "We have talked about some three-way deals and some four-way deals. I don't know if it's going to happen or not."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has long coveted Johnson, still one of baseball's most dominating pitchers at 41. New York was not able to pry the Big Unit from the Diamondbacks last summer and called off trade talks with them two weeks ago, saying the price was too high.

But the Yankees and Arizona reopened discussions this week for the five-time Cy Young winner. Johnson has a no-trade clause, but had said he would accept a deal to the Yankees.

New York already has added free agent Carl Pavano to its rotation this offseason, aiming to improve a team that blew a 3-0 lead against Boston in the AL championship series. The Yankees also have reached a deal with Jaret Wright, while the Red Sox have signed David Wells but lost

free agent Pedro Martinez.

Green also has a no-trade clause. The outfielder would go with Penny and Brazoban to Arizona while Navarro, a catcher, and Duncan, a third baseman, would go to the Dodgers.

Johnson had his best years with the Diamondbacks, winning the NL Cy Young Award his first four seasons with them. When Curt Schilling was traded to Arizona from Philadelphia, he and Johnson formed perhaps the most imposing righty-lefty combination the game has known.

Schilling and Johnson were co-MVPs of the 2001 World Series, when Arizona beat the Yankees in seven thrilling games.

Johnson underwent knee surgery during the 2003 season, but came back for what might have been his best year with the Di-

### The moves

■ **Dodgers send outfielder Shawn Green, pitchers Brad Penny and Yency Brazoban to Arizona Diamondbacks;**

■ **Arizona would trade pitcher Randy Johnson to New York Yankees;**

■ **New York Yankees would give pitcher Javier Vazquez, third baseman Eric Duncan, and catcher Dioner Navarro to L.A. Dodgers.**

amondbacks in 2004.

On a team that lost 111 games, Johnson was second in the majors with a 2.60 ERA. He led the majors in strikeouts (290) for the ninth time and sixth time in the last seven years.

Johnson was 16-14, but 13-2 when the anemic Arizona offense scored more than two runs for him. Along the way, he pitched a perfect game against Atlanta.

Vazquez, 28, was 14-10 with a 4.91 ERA in his first season with the Yankees, and was picked for the American League All-Star team. He was 1-0 with a 9.53 ERA in three games in the postseason, and the Yankees always put a premium on October performances.

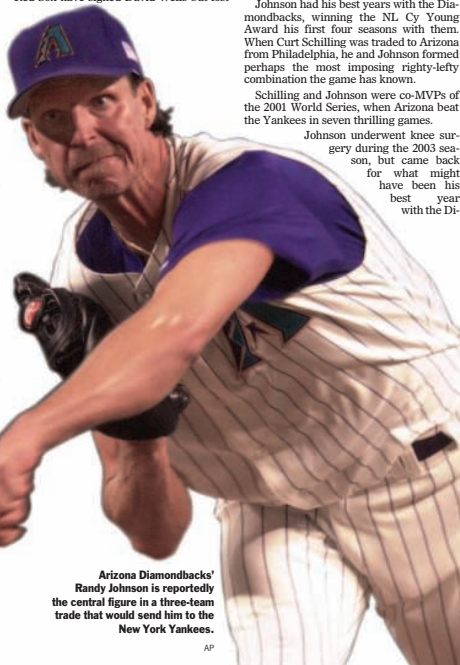
Green, 31, has a .282 career average, but dipped to .266 last season with 28 home and 86 RBIs.

Penny, 26, was traded from Florida to the Dodgers last July 30, but saw limited action for Los Angeles because of a problem in his right arm. He was 9-10 with a 3.15 ERA for both clubs.

Brazoban, 24, made his major league debut this season with Dodgers, going 6-2 with a 2.48 ERA.

Navarro also made his big league debut this year. He was considered, along with Duncan, among the top prospects in the Yankees' system.

Associated Press sports writers Bob Baum in Phoenix, Josh Dubow in San Francisco and John Nadel in Los Angeles contributed to this report.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson is reportedly the central figure in a three-team trade that would send him to the New York Yankees.

AP

**Bryant, Lakers  
hand Kings  
worst home loss  
in nearly  
seven years**

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**Temple's  
Chaney not  
slowing down  
as he nears  
1,000th  
Division I game**

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association lashes  
out at league over  
latest rejection**

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